

LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

Volume 45 Issue 6 ► June 2023



In this issue - underlined are links

*June hybrid meeting in-person
and on-line via zoom*

- 2** *Notices/Upcoming Events*
- 3** *Biography Tim Halloran*
- 4** *May Competition Winners*
- 6** *Covid and Ansel Adams*
- 7** *Photography MeetUp*
- 8** *GigaMoon Photography*
- 9** *Iconic Photo Backstory*
- 10** *The End of Mask Wearing*
- 11** *Photo Vocabulary*
- 11** *Great Photo Articles/Videos*

*Featured Cover by Sherry Grivett
(see makers description on page 5)*

Notices and Coming Events

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

Thurs. June 1st, Photoshop Meetup, 10am - Saratoga Library

Debbie Sy will be hosting a photo editing session for LGSCC members who would like to either get feedback from other members on their current projects or need a little help using photoshop to improve their photos. This is not a workshop, but an opportunity to exchange ideas. **RSVP through the LGSCC Meetup group.**

Next Competition - June 5th - Hybrid Meeting

Submission Rules – Members may enter a total of three images into a monthly competition with a maximum of two images in any one category and a maximum of three printed images and a maximum of two projected images. Check our website with updated definitions for all categories. See more on prints at right.

Our meeting judge for May will be Jeff Dunn. Jeff has been a professional critic in the arts for the last 16 years, and has had considerable experience in evaluating competitions. Jeff is a member of the Music Critics Association of North America and a Photoshop enthusiast. He is the only classical music critic in the U.S. to illustrate his reviews with original photomontages. Jeff, with a Ph.D. in Geologic Education, is also an outdoor photography specialist and has published two books of Death Valley photography.

Categories for May - Besides the monthly categories of monochrome and color pictorial, the two challenge categories will be *Creative* and *PhotoJournalism* - see details below.

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 . . . [MORE](#)

PhotoJournalism - Photojournalism entries are 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 photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.

Techniques that add, relocate, replace, remove or change any element in the original scene, except by cropping . . . [MORE](#)

Change to Print Competitions

Beginning with our June competition, prints will be every other month. For the rest of 2023 prints will be judged in:

June- PJ, Creative, Mono, Color

August - Nature, Travel, Mono, Color

October - PJ, 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 with Rotating Assignments](#)

[Special Interest Group in Photoshop](#)

[Special Interest Group - Novice Only](#)

[Special Interest Group - Bird Photography](#)



Past Winning Creative Image by Larry Shapiro



Past Winning PhotoJournalism Image by Eric Gray

Member Biography - Tim Halloran

I grew up in Southern California, but after several trips to the SF Bay Area as a teenager, I fell in love with the Bay Area. After graduating from college, I took an electrical engineering job in Palo Alto. I've lived and worked in the Silicon Valley since then, except for six years I spent in Massachusetts, where my wife has family.

“I've tried to seriously develop my skills in fine art landscape photography ”

I've had a passion for photography since I was a small child. I still have some photos I took when I was about eight years old, in 1965. In the past fifteen years I've tried to seriously apply myself to photography and develop my skills in fine art landscape photography, but I also photograph anything that I find beautiful or interesting. I especially like to hike, explore, and photograph the outdoors of the Bay Area, Northern California, and anywhere I travel.



I try to capture the beauty and mystery of nature, and the transient nature of all things, for my own enjoyment, and hopefully for the future enjoyment of many people. I consider the print to be my final goal, so it can be enjoyed displayed hanging in our home and possibly enjoyed in public. I also like prints since they are more permanent and may last for over one hundred years.



Forget-Me-Not flower macro, Heritage Grove, San Mateo County, 2023



Winter Trees with Fog in Yosemite NP, 2022

I've recently retired and have more time to devote to photography. I hope to travel more and see the world. Maybe I'll see you out there!

May Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

Black-crowned Night-herons mating at Mt. View rookery, Robert Fox, Nature Projected - Sequence ►

I was tired and went to a bench to rest, when I saw the night-heron land in a nearby tree-followed by another. I sensed maybe some action and got up and aimed the camera. Fortunately, the settings were already good as there was no time to re-check. And just kept clicking 'till the action stopped. Used Nikon D7500, Tamron 18-400, f7.1, 1/1600-1/1000, ISO 640.



See three image sequence on the club website



◄ From Bygone Days..., Jim Katzman, Color Pictorial Projected

My wife bought a set of new “old classics” which had beautiful bindings and covers. I decided to add a couple of classics we already had (the Jane Austen and the two Steinbecks on the ends). My slide rule hadn't seen the light of day since I studied engineering before the modern calculator was invented that made the slide rule obsolete. So, I brought that into the picture and already had the steam locomotive bookend in place. I shot this in 2018 and knew nothing about still life photography

and entered my first attempt of this image into competition then and got some interesting feedback from the judge when it won nothing. Last year I took Larry Shapiro's course on still life images and learned a lot about composition and post processing. I did a fair amount of new post processing in photoshop on the 2018 image to get this with a lot of masking and burning. I also added a smoky black texture to the background to enhance the mood of this picture.

Shot with a Sony A7Rii, a 24-70 mm lens at 70mm, on a tripod, an 8 second exposure at f/8.0 at ISO 100. Processed in Lightroom, Photoshop and Topaz AI.

May Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It (continued)

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Clam Chowder Cook-Off, Betty Toepler, PhotoJournalism Projected ►

Every year, except for a couple of years during the Covid pandemic, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk organizes the Clam Chowder Cook-Off to benefit the Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department.

Multiple teams participate in a friendly rivalry to raise money and win prizes as well as bragging rights for being voted the best Boston or Manhattan Clam Chowder by the people's vote. Amateur teams compete on Saturday and professional chefs compete on Sunday. It is a fun and lively event. Tickets are sold for sampling the chowder and votes are counted to proclaim the best chowder, etc.



I took this photo on Saturday not long after the gong sounded at 10am to announce that participating teams could begin prepping. It takes comradery and team work to be organized, complete all tasks in a timely manner and have the chowder ready for sampling by 12 noon, when all cooking activities must cease. This team, "The Silence of the Lambs" won 2nd prize for their Boston Clam Chowder in 2020. (2023, this team took 1st place for the Peoples' Choice Award for the best Boston style chowder as well as the most tasted and best booth theme.)

Sony A300, the first camera Sony made. 28mm, F8, 1/250, ISO 100, February 2020

Agave Textures, Sherry Grivett, Monochrome Projected ►

My monochrome "Agave" was taken in a friend's yard. I love the curves, shapes, and shadows of these plants. The shadows, in particular, are distinctive in an artistic way. I enjoy both monochrome and color presentations of the agave. Light, colors, textures, details, and shadows attract me to various photographic subjects.



Covid-19 and Ansel Adams Exhibition

5/5/23 - A Monumental Moment - after three long years

From, Your Local Epidemiologist -

Today the World Health Organization declared the end of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). This is a huge moment in our story arc of the fight against COVID-19.

This doesn't mean the end of a pandemic. Declaring the end of a PHEIC is not the same thing as declaring the end of a pandemic. "Pandemic" is rhetoric that governments use as a communication tool—it indicates the widespread occurrence of an infectious disease across the globe at a particular time. In theory, the end of a PHEIC comes far before the end of a pandemic.

This doesn't mean that COVID-19 is gone. SARS-CoV-2 is currently mutating 2 times faster than the flu. We will get future waves, but hopefully these will be "wavelets" given the population-level immunity from vaccines and infections. And wavelets will happen several times a year. The probability of a variant of concern (which would be named Pi) is still ~20% in the next 1.5 years. If one emerges, it would likely cause a tsunami. (We saw something similar happen after the 1918 flu emergency ended.) And we cannot ignore the fact that COVID-19 is a leading cause of death in many countries. This will likely remain for years.

"Your Local Epidemiologist (YLE)" is written by Dr. Katelyn Jetelina, MPH PhD—an epidemiologist, data scientist, wife, and Mom of two little girls. During the day she works at a nonpartisan health policy think tank and is a senior scientific consultant to a number of organizations, including the CDC.



Ansel Adams Exhibition at the de Young through July 23, 2023



1932 - *The Golden Gate before the bridge*, Ansel Adams

Looking forward and back, this exhibition of more than 100 works by photographer and environmentalist Ansel Adams (1902 – 1984) places him in direct conversation with contemporary artists and the photographers who influenced him. Laid out in seven sections tracing his artistic development, the exhibition features some of his most-loved photographs, including images of Yosemite, San Francisco, and the American Southwest. Adams' works are shown alongside prints by 19th-century landscape photographers, such as Carleton Watkins and Eadweard Muybridge, as well as contemporary artists like Trevor Paglen, Will Wilson, and Catherine Opie. Their work engages anew with the sites and subjects that occupied Adams throughout his life — from national parks to the use and misuse of natural resources. Adams' legacy continues to inspire and provoke, influencing how we envision the landscape and serving as an urgent call to preserve our environment.

Tickets and more information - <https://www.famsf.org/>

Meetup Birds and Wildflowers

There was an LGSCC Meetup at the Egret Rookery in April. Our bird photographers succeeded in finding great birds to photograph! Our wildflower shoot at Edgewood Park was not as successful due to less than abundant flowers at this time.

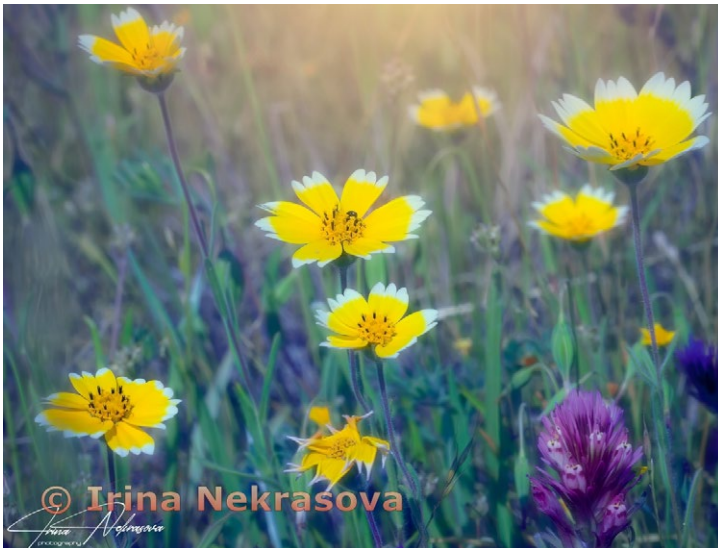


Image by Jeff Balfus



Image by Airdrie Kincaid



Image by Paola Valenzuela

GigaMoon 280,000 Images

From Petapixel.com by Matt Growcott

It's an image that Andrew McCarthy has wanted to capture for a long time, with multiple attempts thwarted by poor conditions.

"My hard drive is filled with dozens of failed attempts at GigaMoon," he tells PetaPixel. "I watch the forecast for seeing conditions daily. This is a particular aspect of weather not visible in most forecasts, it requires a specific astronomy-oriented weather app (I use an app called Astrospheric) to keep me abreast of the ever-changing conditions of the upper atmosphere."

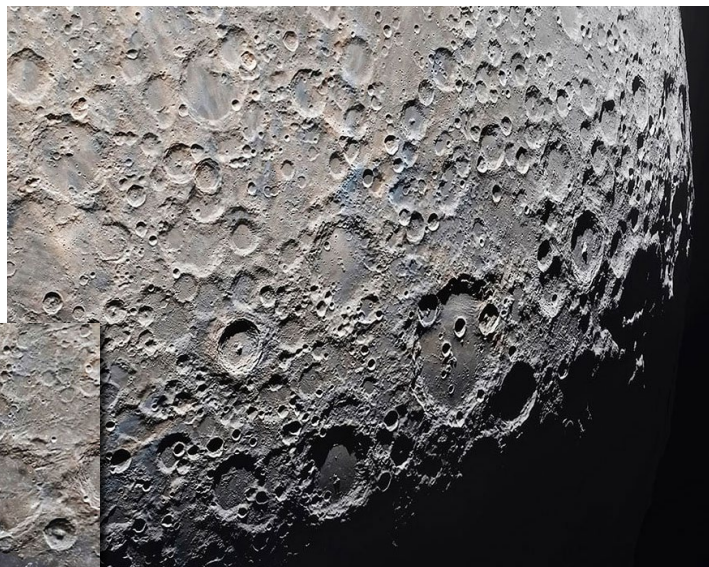


McCarthy used an 11-inch telescope with a 2.5x powermate which ultimately gave him a focal length of 7000mm. Variances in temperatures between atmospheric layers can cause the Moon to look blurry and shaky when viewed through that kind of magnification.

But on the evening of April 29, the forecast was good so McCarthy decided to take another crack at it.

"Even with good conditions, it's almost like capturing through water with how much the atmosphere distorts each image," he explains. "For that reason, I capture about 2,000 images at a time. Doing this on each section, then slewing my telescope and doing it again and again eventually covering the full moon is how these images are captured."

[Read the complete fascinating article here](#)



Detailed view of the 'Gigamoon' showing some of the thousands of craters on the lunar surface. Despite having relatively good conditions, there were still phases when it was less than optimal so McCarthy shot the entire Moon twice to try and cover for any bad panels. Eventually, he captured 140 panels, meaning a staggering 280,000 images.



Iconic Photo Back Story



From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tank_Man

Tank Man (also known as the Unknown Protester or Unknown Rebel) is the nickname of an unidentified Chinese man who stood in front of a column of Type 59 tanks leaving Tiananmen Square in Beijing on June 5, 1989, the day after the Chinese government's violent crackdown on the Tiananmen protests. As the lead tank maneuvered to pass by the man, he repeatedly shifted his position in order to obstruct the tank's attempted path around him. The incident was filmed and shared to a worldwide audience. Internationally, it is considered one of the most iconic images of all time. Inside China, the image and the accompanying events are subject to censorship.

There is no reliable information about the identity or fate of the man; the story of what happened to the tank crew is also unknown. At least one witness has stated that Tank Man was not the only person to have blocked the tanks during the protest, but Tank Man is unique in that he is the only one who was photographed and recorded on video.

Image and caption from CNN -

Following a crackdown that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of student demonstrators in Beijing, a lone Chinese protester steps in front of People's Liberation Army tanks in Tiananmen Square in 1989. At least five photographers captured the event, which became a symbol of defiance in the face of oppression. Charlie Cole, working for Newsweek, won a World Press Photo Award for his version of the image. The identity and fate of the "Tank Man" remains unclear.



Wider shot by Stuart Franklin showing a column of tanks approaching Tank Man, who is shown near the lower-left corner.

The End to Mask Wearing

by Eric Gray

In March 2020 we began wearing masks and some humans have been tossing them without regard for others. Others that must step over their discards, cleanup their discards or just look at their litter outside. I began to use my iPhone to capture this waste in 2020 when I saw a woman in the parking lot of a retail shop lower her window an inch or two, removed her mask and plastic gloves, then proceeded to shove them out onto the parking lot as she quickly backed up and drove away. She won't forget my WTF look and hand gesture as she passed. Since then I have recorded nearly a hundred discarded masks and an occasional shoe or other piece of clothing while walking through parking lots on my way somewhere. Here are several of those shots.



Photography Vocabulary

by Petapixel.com

A

Active Autofocus. An autofocus system in which the camera emits a red beam that bounces off the subject, returns to the camera, and is detected in order to determine the distance from the camera to the subject. The camera then uses this reading to precisely adjust focus and lock it onto the subject.

[Entire article here -](#)

Adobe. An American software company based in San Jose, California. Many of its flagship products, including the image editing software Adobe Photoshop, are widely used by photographers, videographers, and creatives across a wide range of industries.

Adobe Camera Raw. Also known as ACR, is a free Adobe Photoshop plug-in that lets you import, process, and enhance raw photographs in Photoshop or Adobe Lightroom.

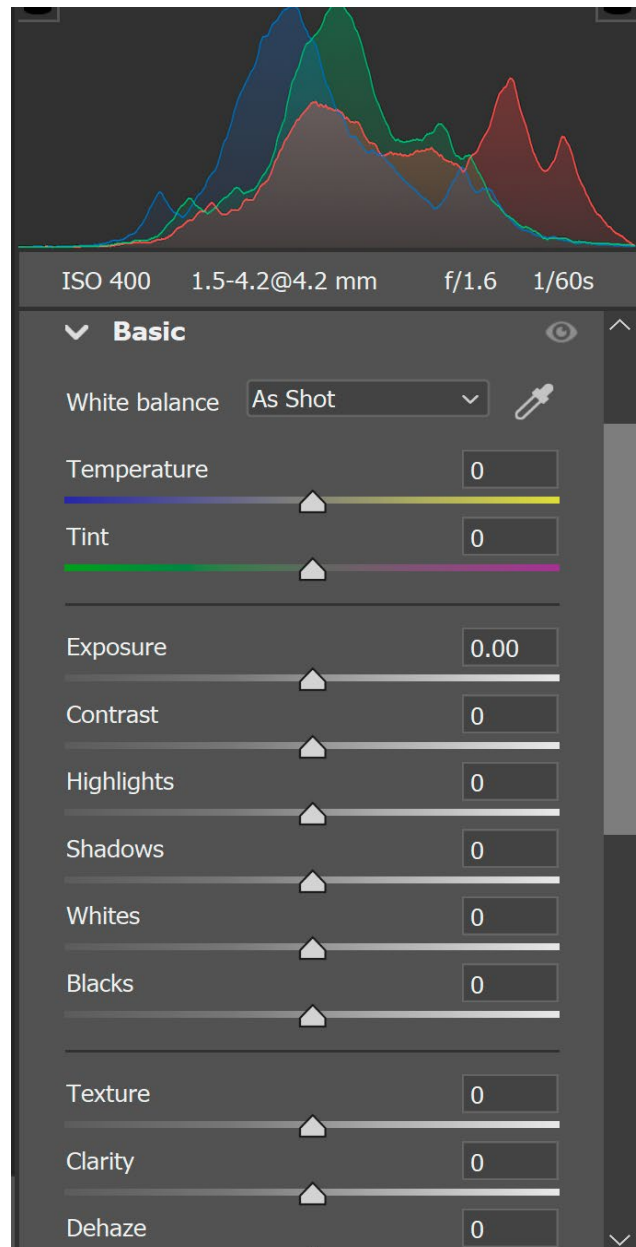
AE Lock. Autoexposure lock is a camera function that allows the users to lock the current exposure settings. This enables the photographer to shoot photos without the camera recalculating the necessary settings for optimal exposure before every shot.

AF Lock. Autofocus lock is a camera feature that allows a photographer to freeze the current focus point of the lens, enabling them to shoot a photo at any time independent of whether the camera determines it has achieved correct focus.

Ambient Light. Any light in a scene that the photographer did not introduce artificially. This can include both natural light from the Sun as well as artificial light already illuminating a location.

Angle of View (AOV). Another term for field of view.

Aperture. The opening of the diaphragm within a lens that light passes through on its way into a camera. This is one of the fundamental settings for controlling exposure . . .[MORE](#)



Adobe Camera Raw - Basic Adjustment Panel

Great Photography Articles

Photographer Embraces AI - <https://petapixel.com/2023/02/15/famed-commercial-photographer-embraces-ai>

Top Travel Photographer of 2022 - https://youtu.be/GaD_E_x86uY

Photo Tips 101 - https://petapixel.com/learn-photography/#Photography_101

Copyrights of all photos in this publication are retained by the photographers credited.

Key Contacts

President

Jeff Balfus

jbalfus@gmail.com

Membership

Paul Streit

pstreit1@msn.com

Webmaster

Jim Katzman

jimkoolkat@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

Eric Gray

eric@gdactive.com

Official publication of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club, a club member of the Photographic Society of America

