

# LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

[losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org](http://losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org)

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*November 3, zoom only 7:30*

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*Featured Cover by Mercury Freedom  
(see makers description on page 4)*

# Notices and Coming Events

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

## Recent Competition - Mon. Nov. 3, 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 November was 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 November**– Besides the monthly categories of Mono and Color – the challenge categories will be Travel and Journalism projected.

### 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 photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, 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. [MORE](#)

### Travel Category

A Travel image is a portrayal of the real world we live in, as it is found naturally. There are no geographic limitations.

Content guidance:

1. If the image is predominantly or exclusively a land-, sea or cityscape, these “scapes” must include characteristic, distinctive and recognizable physical features, although it is not necessary that the image identify the exact location.
2. Images that predominantly or exclusively depict people and their activities must illustrate a distinctive culture of a country, region, or continent.
3. Images that predominately or exclusively depict animal populations are allowed, if the animals are in their native environment and are characteristic of that ... [MORE](#)

## 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](#)



2021 Journalism Projected by Mila Bird

**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.

**New Day** - Monday, November 17th, from 3:45-5:45pm.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we have changed our usual Wednesday to Monday a week earlier than usual. We'll edit photos you bring. **How to Register:** - Log-on to club website, Click on the event under “[calendar](#)” Questions, email [here](#)

I've been a serious amateur photographer since the late 70's, and in the early years had a home darkroom, and dabbled in medium-format and 4x5 as well as 35mm film (Olympus OM-1, which my daughter is now using). Switching to digital was gradual. My photo interests have focused on the landscape, abstract compositions, Photoshop montages, and photojournalism. I've a special fascination with the juxtaposition of human elements with those of nature. I currently use a Nikon Z8, and edit mostly using Lightroom and Photoshop. My photo site is <https://chriscassell.smugmug.com/>. I'm a retired aerospace engineer with specialty in orbital mechanics (ask me about asteroid resource utilization and Deep Space Industries, Inc.)



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*“I was president and held other offices at the  
Light & Shadow Camera Club of San Jose”*

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I became involved with the camera club community of the Bay area after moving here in 1997. I was president and held other offices at the Light & Shadow Camera Club of San Jose, until that club disbanded due to low membership. I joined LGSCC in late 2018 and have been the club's Judge VP since 2020. I'm a frequent judge for the photo competitions of camera clubs around the Bay. I judged several times at LGSCC before joining; in fact, my very first gig was at LGSCC in Oct 2011 (thanks for not being too hard on me then).

Starting with the first Women's March in Jan 2017 I've also been a photographer for Pro Bono Photo (<http://www.probonophoto.org/>) which provides free photo services to social justice and environmental organizations in the Bay area. I'm finding that applying my photo skills to support these causes is very satisfying.



## October Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It (continued)



◀ The exotic Asmat tribe are warriors on the water. Their painted bodies and traditionally carved canoes embody strength, unity and cultural survival. West Papua, Indonesia, September 2025, Pam Perkins, Travel Projected

I captured this photo in September, 2025 during a visit to Agats, an Indonesian village that is home to the Asmat tribe. As a photographer drawn to tribal cultures, I had dreamed of meeting and photographing this elusive community for years. Reaching them wasn't easy because the Asmat live in the remote wetlands of West Papua, but the two hour journey by a

rubber zodiac was worth it. When we arrived, a spectacular flotilla of about 75 canoes surrounded us, filled with body-painted former headhunters who came out to greet us. But I focused on these four canoes because the warriors themselves were nicely spaced apart and the backdrop was very dramatic and uncluttered. I shot this from the zodiac with my Leica SL3, hoping to capture the beauty of the moment. 1/500, f7.1, iso 400. 38mm..

### Bridge Fire, Santa Cruz Mtns, August 8th, '25 -- Cal Fire Helicopter supports Ground Crew, Mercury Freedom, Journalism Projected ▶

This photo was taken Friday, August 8th, 2025. I was home, and had just gotten my Sony lens back from Sony ... it was in for a warranty repair — I had just put it on the camera and was in my office testing it when we got a call from our neighbor down our street; there was a grass fire across the way.

So, bringing my camera with the 300 mm f2.8 and 2x extender, (600 mm @ f5.6) my wife and I went down to our neighbor's house and watched the 'fireworks' from her balcony; the fire was on the other side of Lexington Reservoir below, and later above Alma Bridge Rd. As it turned out, 600 mm was just the 'exact' length to best capture the action — or maybe a little tight at that.

What we witnessed was at first a grass fire, but it picked up intensity over the next 30 - 45 minutes to where we saw trees go up like torches. The fire fighters had a couple of trucks on site on Alma Bridge Rd.; they were spraying water from the trucks. Meanwhile, this helicopter was making repeated drops, getting another load of water from the reservoir and repeating. They had the fire contained within about 2 hours. A couple

of days later I went over to the Cal Fire Station on Old Santa Cruz Hwy, thinking they'd enjoy some of the shots I'd gotten of them at work ... they did — and I learned the cause they thought was teen agers messing around; nobody was arrested.



## October Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It (continued)



◀ **Wide-Angle View of Marin County Civic Center, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, Chris Cassell, Color Projected**

My daughter, Helen, was the cinematographer for a short film shown at the 2025 Mill Valley Film Festival, and on Fri 10/03 my wife and I drove to San Leandro for the showing. I realized the theater was only a few miles from the Marin County Civic Center, which I've wanted to visit for many years but hadn't done so before. But we arrived late in the day and had to run through quickly before the building closed. I suspected the Frank Lloyd Wright architecture would work in interesting ways with my super-wide lens, and that proved so. Nikon Z8 with Laowa 10mm f/2.8 lens at f/8, ISO 1400, 1/250 sec, handheld and uncropped.

**Elegance and the Bud, Susan Dinga, Monochrome Projected** ▶

Description unavailable by deadline.



## October Second Place Competition Winners



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

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## Program - Through the Artist's Eye

YouTube Program link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X35CGR4WRk>

**October 20, 2025** - Photographer Brittany Colt shared her unique vision of the landscape, where light, creativity, and emotion come together to make photographs that transcend documentation. Join her in an inspiring journey into the art of exploring nature through photography. Please look at her photos on her website. <https://brittanycolt.com> in particular, please look at her monochrome photos especially of landscapes.



*Color before ..... Monochrome after*

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## PSA 2024 International Travel Competition

by Jeffrey Pawlan ,

The Photographic Society of America has officially launched a YouTube channel which includes all the winning images of the 2024 International Travel Competition. These are really spectacular photos and might help you with creating your own travel photos. They will also have educational material on this channel in the future. Anyone may look at this channel. You do not need to be a member of PSA.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQHpybOkPRk&list=PLaZZcRjt08BSYTb2OpV3\\_qc0orCfvgKxU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQHpybOkPRk&list=PLaZZcRjt08BSYTb2OpV3_qc0orCfvgKxU)



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



### Wednesday November 19th at 2:30

Natural Bridges State Park 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.

The park's diverse ecosystems include coastal scrub, grasslands, and tide pools, making it a haven for various wildlife, including seals, otters, and numerous bird species.

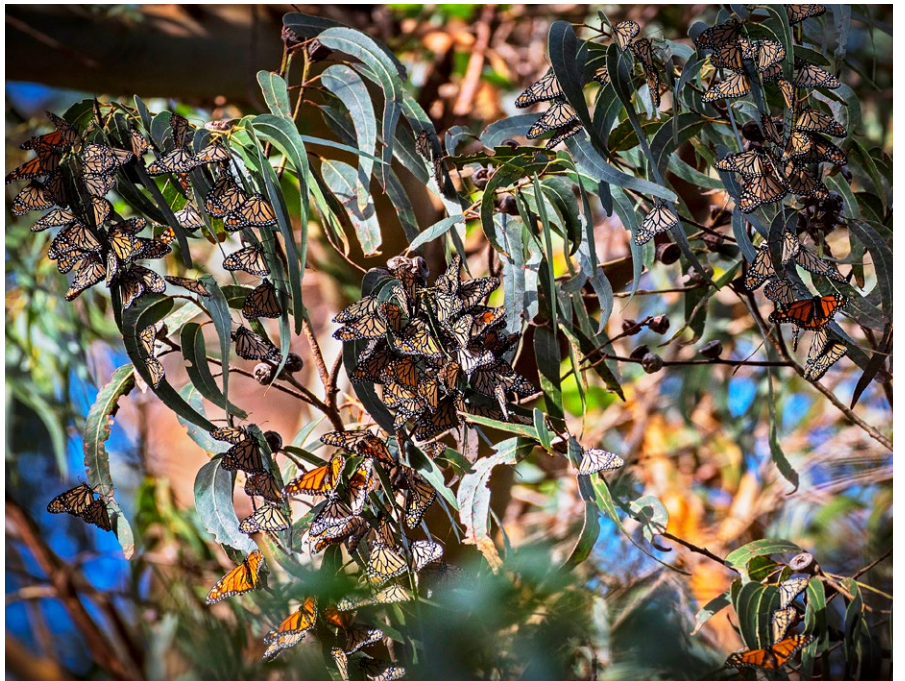
**Cost:** There is a \$10 vehicle day-use fee.

**Amenities:** The park has restrooms, picnic tables, and plenty of parking.

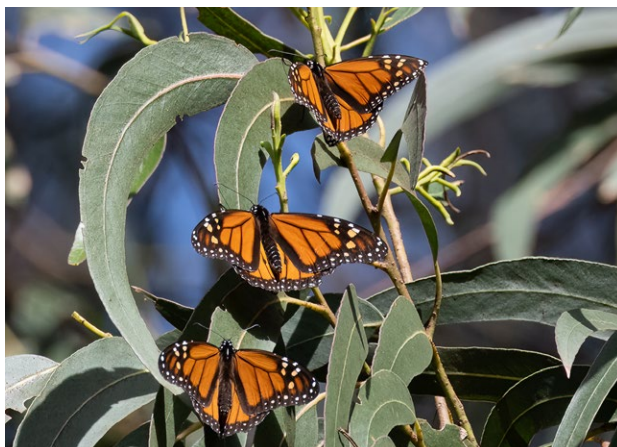
Low Tide is at 3:57 pm Sunset is at 4:55 pm

**We are going to meet in the parking lot 2:30** (near the trail which will take us to the Monarch Butterfly Preserve – eucalyptus grove). This is an easy about 10-minute walk.

Bring a jacket- monarchs cluster at 55 degrees or less and fly only after warming their wings above 55 degrees.



*Images above by Eric Gray*



*Image by Tim Meadows*

## Iconic Photo Back Story



“Warshing Clothes Recipe” - imagine having a recipe for this !!! A grandmother gave the new bride the following recipe: This is an exact copy as written and found in an old scrapbook, spelling errors and all.

From <https://www.boredpanda.com/antique-historical-pics/> by Kornelija Viečaitė and Jonas Žvilius

### WARSHING CLOTHES

Build fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water. Set tubs so smoke wont blow in eyes if wind is pert. Shave one hole cake of lie soap in boilin water. Sort things, make 3 piles - 1 pile white, 1 pile colored, 1 pile work britches and rags.

To make starch, stir flour in cool water to smooth, then thin down with boiling water. Take white things, rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard and boil, then rub colored don't boil just wrench and starch. Take things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then wrench, and starch. Hang old rags on fence. Spread tea towels on grass. Pore wrench water in flower bed. Scrub porch with hot soapy water. Turn tubs upside down.

Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with hair combs. Brew cup of tea, sit and rock a spell and count your blessings.

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## AI Photos Generated by Prompts

### 15 Essential Gemini AI Prompts for Creating Black and White Portraits

From <https://121clicks.com/inspirations/gemini-ai-prompts-black-and-white-portraits/> by Venkat Prakash



Photo: AI Image/Google Gemini, Prompt: The Cinematic Noir Look

Listen up, fam. We've all been there. You fire up your AI art generator—Gemini AI Prompts, Midjourney, whatever your flavor—and you try to crank out something iconic, something with real vibes. You type in “portrait of a woman, dramatic lighting,” and what does the algorithm spit out? A perfectly fine, kinda-sorta-boring image drenched in generic color. It's like, ugh. We're not here for “fine.” We're here for next-level.

The truth? The magic of AI art isn't in the platform; it's in the prompt. And when you talk about black and white, you're tapping into something primal. You're leaving the distraction of color behind to focus on pure soul: the texture, the shadow, the emotion. Think classic Hollywood—the moody cinematography of a noir film, the timeless gaze of an Ansel Adams shot. That's the energy we're chasing.



Photo: AI Image/Google Gemini, Prompt: Gritty Street Photo Texture

But translating that vibe into a text prompt? That's where most people hit a wall. They forget that AI doesn't just see “black and white”—it needs to be told the story of the light, the composition, and the emotional payload. You need to be the director, the cinematographer, and the casting agent all at once. The difference between a bland grayscale image and a masterpiece is the vocabulary you use. You have to specify the type of monochrome: Is it high-contrast film noir? Is it soft, misty portraiture?

We're about to hand you the keys to the kingdom. We've spent way too much time testing, tweaking, and refining the language to move from “decent” to absolutely stunning. These aren't just 15 random phrases; this is your curated toolkit—the ultimate cheat sheet for transforming your . . . read more - <https://121clicks.com/inspirations/gemini-ai->

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### Great Photography Articles/Videos

More Monarchs - <https://121clicks.com/inspirations/mexicos-monarch-butterflies-kristina-makeeva/>

Expanded Generative Fill - <https://blog.adobe.com/en/publish/2025/09/25/photoshop-beta-expands-generative-fill>

Price and Uses FireFly AI - <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tech/artificial-intelligence/adobe-firefly-for-photographers>

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