



Los Gatos/Saratoga
Camera Club
www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

Newsletter

Volume 37 Issue 9

September 2015

In this Edition

PICTURE IT! Exhibit Announcement	2
Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It	3
Meet Rita Lane-Smith	7
Key Contacts	8

Reminders

Journalism Competition Definition

Journalism entries shall consist of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation of the image, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in Journalism competition.

No manipulation or modification of Journalism images is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effect filters can be applied. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. Any sharpening must appear natural.

Coming Club Events

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

Saturday, September 5, 2015

11:30pm Projected Image Entry Deadline:
Color, Monochrome, Photojournalism

Monday, September 7, 2015

5pm Online Print Entry Deadline
7:15pm Print Entry Deadline
Competition: Color, Monochrome,
Photojournalism
Judge: Melanie Lewert

Refreshments: Bob Leipsic, Sandra Leipsic,
Ling-Kuo Lee

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

10:00 am Keeble & Shuchat Exhibit Take
down
3:00 pm Pick up images at Susan Dinga's
house.

Monday, September 21, 2015

Program: Members' Night

Saturday, October 3, 2015

11:30pm Projected Image Entry Deadline:
Color, Monochrome, Creative

PICTURE IT!

A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT
BY MEMBERS OF THE
LOS GATOS-SARATOGA CAMERA CLUB

August 13 – September 9, 2015



RANDALL HARRISON

Keeble and Shuchat Photography

290 California Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Opening Reception
Sunday, August 16 1 – 4 pm

Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

The judge was [Chuck Honek](#). We asked the makers of the first place images to send stories about what their subject was, when and where the image was taken, how it was created (photographed and/or processed), and why they created it.

August 2015 First Place Travel Print



An alley in the Albaicin neighborhood, a World Heritage Site in Barcelona
Frank Stotts

My subject was an old curved alley. I was in Barcelona with a photo tour group. We were walking through part of a World Heritage Site. There was a little dress shop on the side of the alley which had this bright little red dress hung in the doorway. Surprisingly the group I was with walked by and paid the dress little attention.

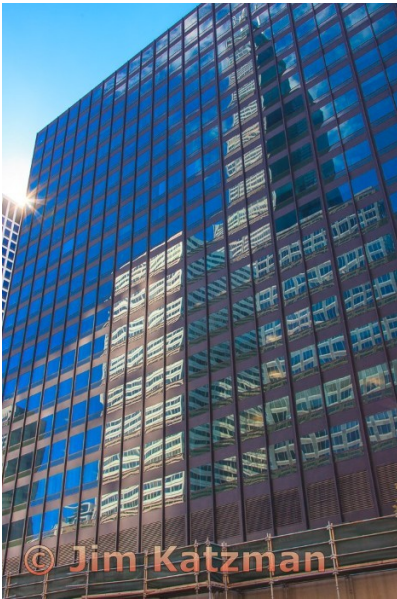
I don't know why the others didn't notice but at any rate as they passed by I got the view to myself. I am not always the first to spot opportunities like this and the lesson to myself is to pay attention and keep a sharp eye out.

There was considerable discussion at the judging about whether or not the camera was on a tripod. The judge had said that he thought the image had been taken on a tripod. I like to use a tripod and use one whenever I can and after our judge's comments I just assumed that I probably had used one.

But later I realized that I did not take the tripod because of the long walk and the fact that it is difficult for me to carry a lot of equipment on a longer walk. However, I am able to hold my camera quite steady and I used a Nikon 24-120 Vibration Reduction (VR) Lens. The VR lens is quite effective and although not as good as using a tripod, it can be helpful to create sharp images.

I was wrong on another count. I told the judge that I had used f/16 or f/20. Well, when I looked up the data in my computer I was surprised to realize that I took the photo at f/8. My camera was a Nikon 810 and I shot at 1/250 and ISO 640.

August 2015 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced



Sunburst on Sky Scrapers as seen from the Chicago River
Jim Katzman

This shot was taken on a trip to Chicago (a college fraternity reunion). One of the things we did was to take an architectural tour on the Chicago River by boat. It was mid-day and there is a lot of great architecture along the water. I took many shots, but was attracted by the combination of the reflection of one building in the windows of another, the deep blue in the reflected sky, and the sun burst. This shot was hand-held.

The details: Shot with a Canon 5D Mark II, with a 28-300 mm lens at 35mm, 1/80th of a second at f/10 at ISO 200. It was shot in RAW and processed in Lightroom.

August 2015 First Place Travel Digital Projected Image - Advanced

Our recent trip to Myanmar earlier this year took us to Mandalay, a city made exotic and famous by "The Road to Mandalay", the poem by Rudyard Kipling, who was never actually there. In truth, the city is a traffic-choked grid of straight roads with terrible air quality. That being said, however, there are many cultural and religious sites to see, as well as some astounding scenes of everyday life.

One day our guide suggested that we visit the "slums", as she called it, to see how local people live and work. Where we actually wound up was along the banks of a nearly dry arm of the Irrawaddy River, where dozens of small wooden houses make up a temporary village surrounded by huge mounds of bamboo. Some of the houses were built atop large pieces of Styrofoam so they would float as the river rose.



We met one family who made woven panels from flattened bamboo that are used as walls for houses, fencing, or corrals. The young woman in the photo gathered bamboo poles and brought them to their house where they were cut lengthwise and then flattened. The flattened bamboo was woven into large sheets, hammered into place to hold their shape.

You can see a typical woven wall behind the girl. The other photo shows how the panels are woven and stored for later sale. This labor-intensive procedure earns the family the equivalent of \$5 a day. Taken with a Nikon D300, Nikkor 18-200mm lens at 200mm. f7.1, 1/200 sec, ISO 200



Young Woman Carrying Bamboo, Mandalay, Burma
Ken Bloomfield

August 2015 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image



Paris, France
Tom Scatchard

Am extremely busy.

If anyone desires information on the photo, they can either ask me in person at the club meetings, or e-mail me with questions.

August 2015 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic

The Tour du Mont Blanc is a classic European hiking route that circles Mount Blanc, the highest peak in Europe. It traverses 133 miles through France, Italy and Switzerland with overnight stays in mountain refuges.

I hiked this path in its entirety 21 years ago with a friend, and with whom I decided to redo the best portions of the hike in July, 2015. After seven days of hiking, we settled in the French alpine town of Chamonix and did day hikes on the slopes surrounding the valley.

Each morning we assembled our lunch from the local shops. This day we bought a fresh baguette from our favorite boulangerie, jambon from the charcuterie and locally produced tomme and fontina cheeses from the cheese store. The flan tart was our special treat. This particular hike was on the slopes of the Aiguille du Midi, high above Chamonix. We settled for our ritual trailside lunch, and I was overwhelmed by the beauty both of the spectacular alpine massif and the amazing composition of the colors and textures of our lunch and thought to preserve the moment.

In preparation for the trip I considered that I was to be hiking for 12 days with a backpack, and needed to consider the extent of the photographic equipment I was willing to carry. I finally decided to use only the camera on my iPhone 6, which I used for this image.



Lunch while hiking the Tour du Mont Blanc, Chamonix, France
George Mednick

The only manipulation I did in Apple's Photos application was a slight adjustment to the shadows and a small cropping. The iPhone performed quite well in most circumstances, though very close images, such as wildflowers, were often unclear.

August 2015 First Place Monochrome Print



Sensuous Succulent
Tim Meadows

My image was part of a focus stacking project I've been "focused on" for the last month. I have always been interested in macro photography, but frustrated with the typical shallow depth of field which accompanies macro photography. My image was created by making 4 separate images where I varied the focal point. I then combined them in a focus stacking application called Helicon Focus, although it can also be done in Photoshop.

Nikon D800, 105mm Macro lens, f8, 1/60 sec, ISO 100.

August 2015 First Place Color Print

This photograph of an arctic tern was taken on a NatureScapes "Ultimate Iceland Arctic Adventure" Photography Workshop, May 27 - June 9, 2015, led by E.J. Peiker and Johann Oli Hilmarsson. A description of the 2016 version of this workshop may be found at:

http://www.naturescapes.net/workshops/iceland_adventure_arctic_2016.

Most of us arrived early in the morning and checked into our hotel (Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura). We met with E.J. and Johann at 2:00pm and then went shooting a geothermal area on the Reykjanes Peninsula. E.J. and Johann wanted to get us out and about and away from napping in the hotel. This photograph was taken at 5:33pm during this outing. The location is given by

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/63%C2%B048'45.0%22N+22%C2%B042'58.0%22W/@64.0764011,-21.6710366,9z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x0>

The equipment used was a hand held Nikon D810 with a Nikon 300mm f/4 lens and a 1.4TC. The exposure conditions were 1/2000sec, f/8, ISO 400, and the shot was done in a "manual" mode. The lighting turned out to be very nice. Minimal editing was done in Lightroom, and the print was produced with an Epson Stylus Pro 3800 printer using Epson Hot Press Bright paper.



Artistry In Motion
Larry Rosier

Meet Rita Lane-Smith

I grew up in various parts of suburban England and was drawn to hike, camp and hostel in beautiful wilderness areas since my teens. Capturing images has been in my life since my teens when they were mainly used to document people, places and events.

I spent two summers in my teens documenting with my Brownie whilst driving through Europe and the Eastern bloc with my Dad. He joined the Free Forces Army (escapees from occupied countries) and we were revisiting countries and WW2 resistance group friends with whom he'd had missions during the war. East Germany was huge shock after driving thru West Germany it felt like a dangerous war zone. As I took my photos I saw that every building had bullet holes, the roads were full of blast holes, streets were deserted and stores empty. I had to be careful about being seen by anyone official when I snapped those pictures.

Sadly my dad died in a car accident the following Christmas Eve, leaving my stay at home non driving Mom with 2 dependent girls and his business which I ran for a couple of years before heading to university. I never saw those images again.

My university offered me a place in a new double Environmental & Rural Science degree. They were accepting just eight students in year one, and we'd have a six months residency at the county agricultural college. I cautiously accepted, and it never let me down. It was lectures and labs five full-time days a week and many a weekend. We were exposed to frequent national guest lecturers, visits to farms and facilities some of which horrified me. My experiences and opportunities became the root of my environmental convictions and the inspiration for my beginning nature photography.

I married right after college, which lasted 30 years. I have two sons both are involved in creative or artistic endeavors in their lives or work. I photographed family events, the boys every milestones, and then some. We moved to the US in '90 with my spouse's work. I did not have a work visa, which was tough, so I volunteered and completed a master's degree at Santa Clara University.



Nature Photography reemerged and began to blossom with a long trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos islands. I experienced those amazing shooting interactions with curious wildlife in the rainforest, on the islands and environmental Kodak moments driving the Pan American h/w. Nature Photography was back in my life yet again.

I've taken numerous classes and two places stand out for me to recommend: They provided the following: well organized sessions with instructors who enjoy teaching, collaborative-groups, fostering of cross-pollination, and experimentation of ideas. Deadlines allow me to ignore life maintenance chores-for a while at least. Constructive critiques with concrete encouragement are essential.

First: The Rocky Mountain School of Photography (RMSP) Missoula Montana runs a three to four months "Professional Summer Intensive Course" I wholeheartedly recommend this even though "Intensive" is front and center. In 2000, the first weeks were covering the basics. Then a rotation of top national photographers arrived for a week or two to instruct in their specialties. There were several daily sessions with shooting assignments for every class,

your best three images for critiques at every class. It was relentless! And fantastic. My camera lived in my hand. We partied but they were print toning parties. We experimented and in small groups found new places and ways to shoot. Two of us decided it to see if we could get onto the fire lines. Our expectations were really low.

In 2000 the Bitterroot Fire raged around us. Two of us set off for the command center to try our luck. The fire chief admired my N90 and I offered to sell it, (my F100 was in the mail). Unexpectedly we were given passes for base camp, a tour and the whole deal. We were issued special non-melting fire clothes (scary) and practiced setting up our flimsy fire shelters (more scary). We saw how aggressively CNN reporters act when they are not first!! Our approach to base camp and the fire was Sci-fi-surreal. We passed through several military and police checkpoints and deserted dead quiet villages with no birds or stray pets. Base camp was huge, on top of the mountain, and out of the smoke. Somehow Base-camp captains thought we were professional media people, so we were given the royal treatment and played the part. An amazing photographic opportunity was had that day. I also learned about the economic losses. Smoke -bees don't fly so all fruit crops failed, no tourist fishing so all business hurt. Hay and valuable stud horses burned and destroyed.

Second: Los Altos J.C. Photo dept. Classes range from basic photography to advanced photography and portfolio development. They also offer classes on a variety of alternative photographic techniques. I have experienced excellent instructors and collaborative peers.




In the early 2000's I qualified to skipper sailboats up to 50' and also certified as a Wilderness First Responder just in case of accidents. Sailing was an interest not a passion, but boats go to photo-vantage points that are otherwise unavailable. I took several groups to sail and photograph thru the Grenadines over the next few years. Eventually I gave up on the groups, it's hard to run a boat and engage in serious photography unless it's a group of good friends. I subsequently sailed from Cairns to Sydney with friends for photography and would very much like to repeat that passage. I now know which islands and coves I'd return to for images.

I have travelled extensively, Galapagos, Antarctica, Africa, Cuba, Yellowstone in winter and many other places. I loved them all. However, shooting closer to home can allow me to plan, shoot and return sometimes often and get the shot right or at least better ones. My favorite home photo-project was designing, building, and siting a nesting box for a Screech Owl. A webcam connected to my computer so I could capture images. Lucy arrived within two days along with Homer her slacker of a mate, and I'm like a kid in a candy store. I watched, and snapped images for three years. She had problems with wasps and squirrels but she was a plucky Mom and stuck it out. I learned so much about the life of this little predatory bird who is eaten by everything larger than her.

When I am not photographing, I volunteer as UC Davis Master Gardener, and grow a selection of my own organic veggies. I get my much needed dog fix as a certified puppy-sitter, (not a raiser) for Guide Dogs of America. There is nothing like a waggly delighted puppy greeting me in the mornings to bring a smile to my face.

Key Contacts

President	Membership	Webmaster	Newsletter	Official publication of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club , a club member of the Photographic Society of America
John Perry 408-370-7229	Gary Marcos 408-741-5712	Jim Katzman 408-867-6810	Airdrie Kincaid 408-247-3743	

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