

LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

Volume 48 Issue 9 ▶ September 2026



*Featured Cover by Venu Allavatam
(see makers description on page 6)*

Contents and Coming Events

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

In this issue - underlined items are links
September 14, zoom only meeting 7:30 pm

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Next Competition - Mon. September 14, 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 print(s) and (up to two) projected images.

Our meeting judge for September will be Jane Postiglione. Jane says “it is important to consciously select visually interesting subject matter with appealing compositional elements, shoot at the best time of day to portray the image, use the best technical parameters to capture the image and tell the subject’s story - capture the subject’s essence - all while demonstrating a personal visual style or signature that sets your work apart from the work of others”. More at <https://photographybypost.com/about-me>

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

Descriptions and rules for all Categories click – [here](#)

From Rick Whitacre - Astro-landscape and Deepspace Photography
I have been working with the developer of The Photographer’s Ephemeris (TPE) for the last several months to implement some tools I developed for astro-landscape and Deepspace photography. These have been released in TPE Web 4.x MAX. For a limited time, you can play with MAX to see what it is all about. Here is a video showing the major new features. I receive nothing from this application. I volunteered my time and tools just so that I could see them realized in a commercial app for all to use. Here is a short video demonstrating the new features.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBDLgeN5z9A>
<https://app.photoephemeris.com/>

Monthly Hands-on Photo Editing Session - register to attend – Check the Club Calendar for dates, usually the last Wednesday of the month 3:30 - 5:30 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](#)

Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected.
For the rest of 2026, prints will be judged in . . .

October – Journalism, 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 in Photoshop](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Novice Only](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Bird Photography](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Hands-on Editing](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Astrophotography](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Eastern Sierra Photography](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Landscape Photography](#)



© Larry Shapiro

Journalism projected winner from 2018



© Charlie Gibson

Creative projected winner from 2017

August Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



◀ Guilin farm workers harvesting yams against the backdrop of the iconic Karst mountains of Guilin, China, Jim Katzman, Travel Print

We were touring China in 2019 in September and had a great trip unaware that in the next two months the Covid pandemic would stem from this country. We visited about six different places including Guilin. I had been there once before in 1983. Karst Mountains actually cover 10-15% of the earth's land mass but the epicenter for them is in China, most notably in Guilin. We asked our guide to take us out to the countryside to get some photos of local inhabitants. She took us to this area and we stopped at several different farms and I got many wonderful shots that I have entered in previous competitions.

The tech stuff: Sony A9 Camera and 24-70 f/2.8 GM lens, 1/125 sec at f/8.0, focal length 55 mm, ISO 100

From inside the Roman Coliseum looking southwest through the travertine and brick faced archway is the Arch of Constantine which was dedicated in 312 C.E., Rick Varley, Travel Projected ▶

The Roman Colosseum is really big, and so was my camera. (I'm blaming Uwe Schmalenbach for my winning photo.) He sold me a Sony RX10 MK3 just before my trip to Italy. As most of you know I have always used a point and shoot camera for all of my photos. I like to travel light and the Sony was anything but. It was more of a haul, lift, point, steady and shoot which added weight to my life. What a great camera though! I sold it back to Uwe a year later and now I'm a little lighter again.

Sony RX10 MK3, 1/320 sec. at f/4, 24mm, ISO100.



August Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



◀ Along the Walkway, Sue Anawalt, Mono Projected

I took this shot in the winter along the new Seattle Walkway that begins outside Pike Place Market. The sun was low in the west and created perfect shadows and light on the buildings. I was standing a little higher up on the walkway as it slopes downwards eventually four floors to the level of Puget Sound.

To take this picture I moved even further up on the slope closer to the entrance of the Market, giving me a nice perspective for the shot. Of course, a photographer cannot count on the still functioning old steam factory to emit steam. Luckily for me, a nice puff of steam came out just as I was shooting. The high contrasts of the day with a bright blue winter sky gave me the perfect opportunity for a black and white image.

My settings: ISO 125, 58mm, f/8, 1/500 sec.

Twilight Tango, Tim Meadows, Color Print ▶

Clumps of these wind-tortured Mangrove trees grow in the intertidal waters along the East Coast of the Indonesian island of Sumba. To get in position to take shots of these trees requires wading 50-100 meters in ankle-deep water and lots of squishy mud. I set my tripod in front of these two trees that reminded me of Tango dancers I had seen on the streets of Buenos Aires, and got down low to accentuate the size of the trees. I had intended to shoot this with a 10-stop ND filter which would have elongated the shutter speed to smooth out the water, but ran out of hands and daylight.

Technical: Nikon Z7, 24-200mm lens at 32.5mm, exposure bracketed sequence of 3 images merged in Lightroom. Sharpening applied using Topaz Sharpen AI.



August Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



◀ Competing for A Meal. Two White-tailed kite chicks rush to get food (a vole) from their dad in the air, Kelly Zhang, Nature Print

This image was taken last year when two white-tailed kite babies just fledged and their father trained them to do a mid-air food exchange.

Sony A1 with 600 fixed lens + 1.4 x

Concourse des Abandonnés, Vallée de la Mort,
Paul Dileanis, Color Projected ▶

Poised on the edge of the mine tailings, the remains of this 1940 Pontiac Coupe caught my eye as I arrived at the abandoned Argenta Mine in Death Valley. The sun had already set but the sky retained the last vestiges of a brilliant sunset. Knowing the colors would soon fade away, I worked quickly to set up the camera. Since the sky was much brighter than the foreground, I knew that creating an HDR image would be necessary to capture the full dynamic range.

Canon R5, RF 15-35/2.8

Five image HDR merge in Lightroom: Base exposure 1/6 sec, f8, ISO 100, +/- 1EV bracket.



August Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It

Andy Goldsworthy's Storm King Wall, Hudson Valley, NY,
Harlan Crowder, Monochrome Print ►

Storm King Art Center is a 500-acre outdoor museum located in New York's Hudson Valley. Visitors can experience large-scale sculpture and site-specific installations by prominent artists, including Alexander Calder, Maya Lin, Richard Serra, Henry Moore, and David Smith.

I was quite taken by Andy Goldsworthy's Storm King Wall. I was shooting with my infrared camera, and the wall was surrounded by trees — a good infrared subject. It took awhile, but I finally found the angle I wanted: the wall snaking down the hill and disappearing into the river.

The print is an intaglio photogravure. It is a printmaking technique in which an image is incised into a metal plate. Ink is applied to the plate and the incised lines and sunken areas hold the ink. The plate is placed on a piece of textured paper and run through a printing press. The image is printed on Rives BFK, a 100% cotton printmaking paper.



◄ A short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) relies on its mottled plumage to blend into the surrounding short grass., Venu Allavatam, Nature Projected

The Skagit River winds through northwest Washington's Skagit Valley before reaching Puget Sound, supporting all five species of Pacific salmon found in the state and producing more than half of Puget Sound's wild Chinook salmon. Each winter, thousands of Bald Eagles gather along the upper river to feed on spawned-out chum salmon, and photographing this spectacle was the original purpose of my trip.

But the severe December 2025 floods dramatically altered the landscape. With the river swollen and traditional feeding areas disrupted, many eagles moved away from the river, forcing us to look for

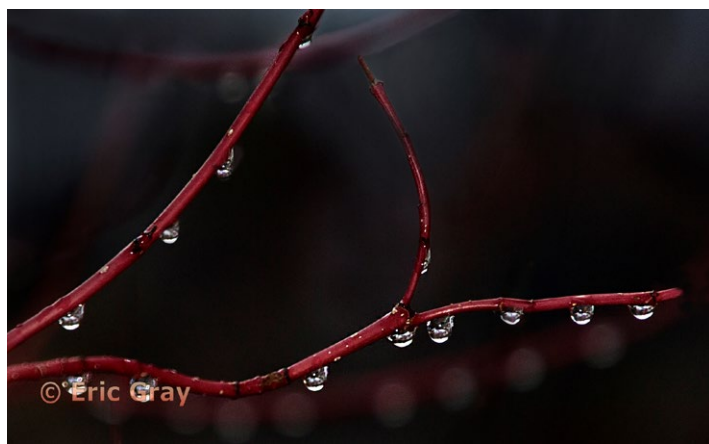
other wildlife opportunities. That detour led to this Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), almost perfectly camouflaged among the tawny grasses.

After a successful hunting session, the owl appeared to be trying to nap while remaining intensely alert. Only its brilliant yellow eye and mottled plumage betray its presence in the dense vegetation—a quiet portrait of rest, vigilance, and adaptation. Camera settings: Sony a1, 1/4000 sec, f/13, 840 mm (600 mm + 1.4× teleconverter), ISO 3200. Topaz SW was used for denoising and sharpening.

August Second Place Competition Winners



Color Print



Color Projected



Travel Projected



Nature Print



Monochrome Print



Nature Projected



Travel Print



Monochrome Projected

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

Carmel Car Show Field Trip Images

by Mercury Freedom -

Our group of intrepid travelers having an Italian Lunch while visiting 'Concours For A Cause' in Carmel on August 11th.



© Mercury America Freedom



© Mercury America Freedom



© Joseph Cervantes



© Mercury America Freedom



© Mercury Freedom



© Debbie Sy

Upcoming Field Trip to Point Reyes

from Mercury Freedom

I'm working-up a Field Trip for September 15 - 17 @ Point Reyes National Seashore. This 'Heads Up!', I hope, will encourage you to put it on your calendar as we all get booked up. Here's the idea for the outing- September/October is Tule Elk rutting season. This time of year should be a great time to witness/photograph these rare elk courting/ mating and battling for dominance. Tule Elk, the smallest elk, were once abundant, then hunted to near extinction. Now perhaps 3,000 roam Pt. Reyes northern end. It can be a seven mile round trip hike to be with them but one might also see coyote, badger, bob cat, and other species. In the park are also shore birds, raptors, river otters, elephants seals and a wonderful sea shore. Highlights include Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, the Pt. Reyes Historic Lifeboat Station, Chimney Rock and Cypress Tree Tunnel. Some of these spots are great for sunrise and sunset shots.

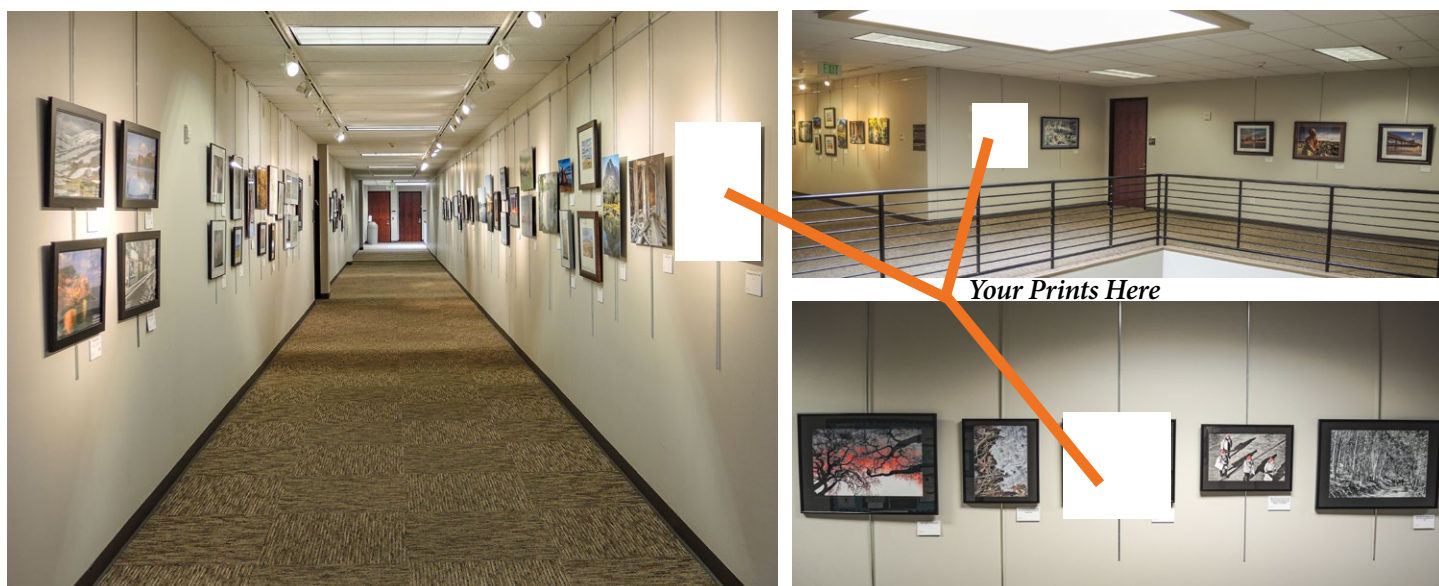
I invite you to web-explore what you might find of interest there and look up the official invite/registration on the calendar.



Two images above from <https://learncalifornia.org/point-reyes-national-seashore/>

Rutting elk image from <https://blog.nwf.org/2014/11/5-intriguing-fall-elk-rut-behaviors-videos/>

Upcoming JCC Photo Exhibit for Our Club



Images and article by Rick Varley, Exhibit V.P.

Hello Shutter Bugs! REMINDER... REMINDER Please read and get your images ready to enter.

This article provides all the info you need to participate in the club's exhibit at the Los Gatos JCC all month long in November. All members of LGSCC are invited to display their "BEST" photos.

- There is no theme except to display your best work and photos must have been taken in the past 3 years.
- They may have been submitted to club competitions but that is not a requirement.
- They may not have been displayed at the previous club exhibits at the JCC.
- You may enter up to three photos. How many are hung will depend on wall space and the total number of entries. Our goal is for every club member to be able to show at least one photo.

You are free to display in any category and medium; however, the photo must be able to hang on a hook. There are no size limits. But...be aware that any photo under glass must not exceed 20 lbs. Larger or heavier photos must use plexiglass for safety purposes as most are hung in a busy hallway, I personally favor aluminum to display my work because it is the most striking and no frame is required. It is also self centering, and the easiest to hang. Check bayphoto.com ... and wait for the 40% off sale. Dirty photos with scratched glass, beat up frames, or held together with string and duct tape will not be accepted. This is our first exhibit in two years so please show your best.

Susan lane susanlane@yahoo.com has again volunteered to process all entries.

By October 15, email your small size jpeg photo(s) to Susan. This is just to identify the image you will bring to the JCC for hanging. Do not exceed 1000 pixels in width and include the following information for each photo:

1. The proper name of the photographer.
2. Your email for being contacted. Leave blank if you do not wish to be contacted.
3. Title of the photo
4. Optional description not to exceed 128 characters including spaces.
5. The size inclusive of frame of the photo: Height x width
6. If the photo is for sale indicate a price. If no price is given, "NFS", or Not for Sale will be put on the label.

In the exhibit each photo will have a 2"x 4" label provided by the club, positioned next to images with the above data as provided by you. Plan on delivering your photo(s) to the JCC on November 1 for hanging. Information on the exact opening date and artists reception will be forthcoming. I am open to suggestions and help! Varleyrick1@gmail.com

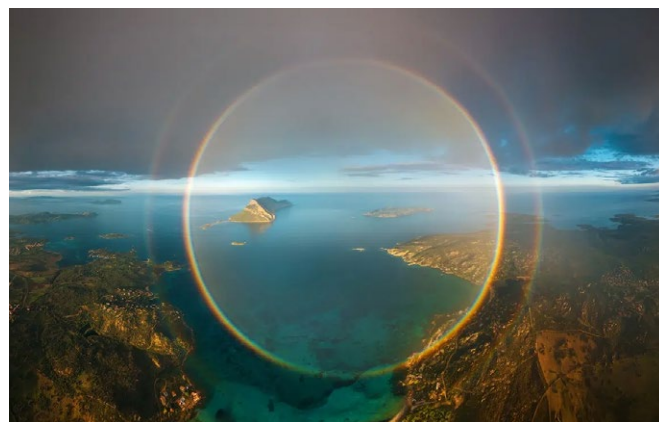
Aerial Awards 2026

by Sage Helene from <https://mymodernmet.com/iapoty-2026-winners/>

The International Aerial Photographer of the Year competition has announced the winners of its second edition, after receiving 1,587 entries from photographers around the world. Out of this high-caliber selection, judges narrowed it down to one Photographer of the Year (with two runners-up), one Photograph of the Year (with two runners-up), four special award winners, and a Top 101 that showcases the remarkable breadth of contemporary aerial photography.



*At left - Golden Gate Framed by Marcin Zajac, Poland
Above - Tumbling White Horse by Fabio Pappalettera, Italy
Below - The Eye of Appenines by Valeria Castiello, Italy,
Complete Rainbow by Paolo Lazzarotti, Italy*



Iconic Photo Back Story

Elvis's Jet Black hair

Hair Color Facts from Google AI



Childhood: Naturally blonde when he was young. Adolescence: Darkened to a sandy or light brown.

Dyeing Habits: Began coloring it jet-black in his teens and early career to make his blue eyes stand out and emulate idols like Tony Curtis.

Early Methods: Famously used cheap options like shoe polish when he was young and broke.

Military Break: Briefly went back to his natural light brown hair while serving in the U.S. Army.

by Christopher Turner, summary below - full article here

<https://29secrets.com/beauty/the-story-of-elvis-presleys-jet-black-hair/>

Elvis Aron Presley was born on January 8, 1935, in Tupelo, Mississippi (he later changed the spelling of his middle name to the biblical form of Aaron). Elvis was deeply devoted to his parents, especially his mother, Gladys, and was raised to have a strong faith in God.

Elvis's family was dirt-poor and lived in a two-room shotgun house in Tupelo that his father had built, until the entire family relocated to Memphis, Tennessee, in November 1948 when Elvis was 13 years old.

Elvis, who received no formal music training and could not read music, studied and learned to play by ear. He had his first taste of musical success when he won a talent show at Humes High School.

Elvis Presley was born blond-haired with blue eyes. In his late teens, his natural blond hair did begin to go a bit darker to a dirty blond or light brown shade, but nowhere near the dramatic shade that we all know so well.

During Elvis's late teens and young adult years, he began to dye his hair black with black shoe polish as an alternative to hair dye, which his family could not afford. He also grew out his sideburns, which was considered a bit scandalous at the time.

Later in his life, when the money started rolling in, Elvis opted to colour his hair with a mix of over-the-counter hair dyes:

Miss Clairol 51D and Black Velvet/Mink Brown by Paramount.

That's why almost every single photo you see of him (with the exception of childhood photos) features super-dark black hair.

Elvis was, of course, famous for his jet-black hair, and when she was younger, so was his wife, Priscilla Presley, née Wagner.

When the couple married on May 1, 1967, at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, Priscilla looked stunning with her long, black hair framing her face. But her hair wasn't naturally black either; it was a light brown. However, Elvis was so obsessed with his hair being black that he made Priscilla dye her hair black before their wedding.

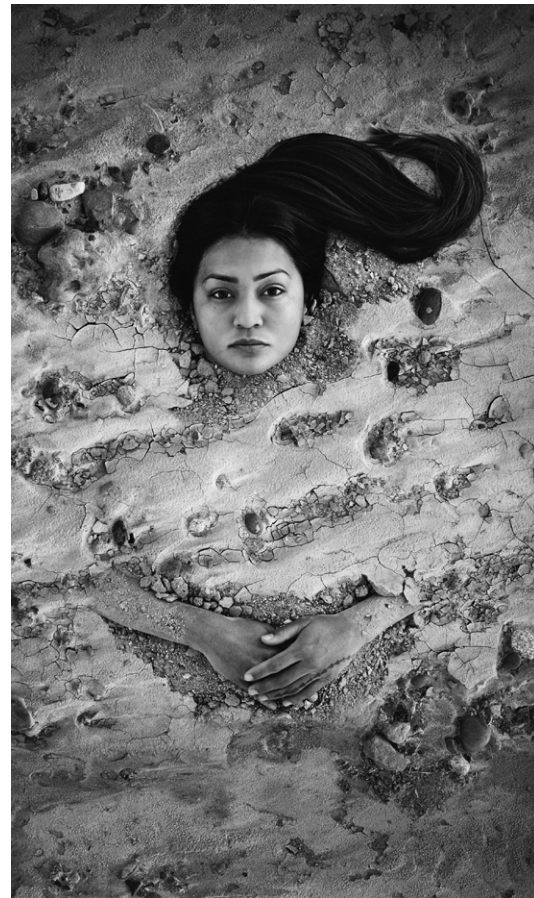


This portrait of Elvis Presley with blonde hair hangs in Graceland's entrance hall and it was taken while he was in the army.

Native American Photographer Cara Romero

by Kate Nelson, from - <https://www.cowboysindians.com/2025/07/guiding-light-native-american-photographer-cara-romero/>

Love. That's what is at the heart of all of Chemehuevi fine art photographer Cara Romero's work. Love for the people featured, love for the communities involved, and love for the medium of photography itself. And that love is evident across Panûpünüwügai (Living Light), her first major solo exhibition, which opened to great fanfare at Dartmouth's Hood Museum earlier this year and will travel across the country through 2027. It includes some 60 pieces created over more than a decade that depict modern Indigenous life. Far from static images, Romero's work at once embodies realism and mysticism —telling stories, evoking emotions, and prompting rumination.



Great Photography Articles/Videos

Film Cameras Booming in Japan - <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/cameras/film-cameras/film-photography-is-booming>

Why Photos Look Worse than Expected - <https://fstoppers.com/education/why-your-photos-look-worse-scene-saw-903147>

Rare Old New York Photos - <https://121clicks.com/inspirations/old-new-york-city-rare-historical-photos/>

Photography's Future - <https://thefutureofphotography.com/thefutureofphotography/show>

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