



In this issue

- *March and early April – Covid-19 cancellations*
- *1st place winners from March tell their stories*
- *Agora Nature Photographer Awards*
- *New — no-focus lens and Covid-19 Cleaning*
- *In Memoriam and Still life education*

Next Competition? - Nature/Journalism May 4th

Judge for May 4th competition will be shown on the website.

Nature - Nature images are restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history except anthropology and archeology in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject matter and certify as to its honest presentation. The story-telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation, manual or digital, that alters the truth of the photographic statement. No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, or . . . [MORE](#)

Photojournalism - 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 . . . [MORE](#)

Notices and Coming Events

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

Mon. May. 4th, Competition - Nature/Photojournalism
7:30 p.m. See deadlines and more info on the website

Speaker, April 20th hopefully - G Dan Mitchell
Photographing the “Sierra Nevada Backcountry”



G DAN MITCHELL
WWW.GDANMITCHELL.COM

Announcements

Meeting April 6th might be virtual.
Check your email soon for full details.

A few points:

- **Attendance will be via Zoom meetings**
- **Categories – Nature, Travel, Color, and Mono**
- **Submit images same as usual (projected only)**
- **You can submit up to 3 projected images**

Hopefully we will be back for a program meeting featuring Dan Mitchell on April 20th

*Please be safe during this
Covid-19 Emergency*

March Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

Climbing NW Face Route on Half Dome, Larry on Lead near end of Third and Last Day, 5/31/86, Chris Cassell, Photojournalism print

My friend Larry and I climbed the Regular NW Face Route on Half Dome as “pinnacle” of our month-long climbing trip to Yosemite in 1986). The route is the easiest of the Grade VI (“Big-Wall”) routes but still a classic. The ~2000’ elevation gain we divided into 23 pitches (rope-lengths), mostly alternating leads. The route goes free at (VI, 5.11) but, not climbing at that advanced level, did 7 pitches on aid (VI, 5.9, A2). Hauling an equipment bag assured a multi-day effort. Larry is shown leading the final aid pitch, near the top. I was belaying Larry, maintaining my own precarious stance, and (lowest priority) photographing. Even so, I realized the carabiner & webbing was important to the composition and tilted camera to include it. Olympus-XA, Kodachrome 64, exposure unrecorded. Lateness & incoming storm forced us to shelter a 3rd night on top of Half Dome.



Frog Jockey Coaxes Amphibian Athlete at Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee - Airdrie Kincaid Photojournalism projected

May 2018 was my second visit to the Jumping Frog Jubilee in Angels Camp, which will be held from Friday May 14th through Sunday May 17th this year. Four of us from the club went on the weekend the first time but Richard and I went on Friday during the qualifying jumps when there were fewer people and better photo access. There are also equestrian events in the arena next to the stage. This image was taken in the afternoon from the seating area in front of the main stage. Since the frog cannot be touched after placing on the starting spot (lily pad), jockeys sing, leap, dance, whistle, stomp, yell, or blow.

Canon EOS 7D Mark II Lens: EF100-400 Focal length 170 mm Exposure: 1/1600 sec f/11 ISO 400

Hook & Pomegranate, Larry Shapiro, Pictorial color projected

The pomegranate has been a still life subject going back to the Greeks. It symbolizes fertility and an abundance of good things. At an estate sale, I came across a bailing hook and realized it would be the perfect companion to the pomegranate. The point of the hook looks ready to break through the pomegranate’s skin to reveal the seeds beneath. The objects were placed on a pressed wood plank against a wood painted background. I used a small LED flashlight with a diffuser to paint the two objects. It is important not to aim the light at the lens at any time or light streaks will appear in the image. The total exposure was 47 seconds at ISO 320 f/5. Camera: Nikon D850 24-120 f/4 lens at 31mm.



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

Steam Train At Night- Airdrie Kincaid, Monochrome projected

This image was taken last month at the Sunol Depot on Pete Lerro's Niles Canyon Railway Photo Charter. Since I enjoyed Pete's Maine lighthouse workshop last July, I decided to try this local charter that included two steam engines and a diesel engine. It attracted train enthusiasts from all over the world. Pete likes to create dramatic scenes reminiscent of the film noir period of the 1940s. After the full moon rose behind the engine, he had one of the railway volunteers walk into the steam with an oil can. The gold-colored station building was distracting so I converted the image to Black & White in Photoshop.

Canon EOS 7D Mark II Lens: EF S18-200 Focal length 50mm Exposure: 0.8 seconds f/8 ISO 800



◀ Late Night Anatomy Lesson, Larry Shapiro Monochrome Pictorial Print

Several times a year there is a Photo Fair in Newark where lots of used camera dealers show their stuff and I met a dealer who was trying get rid of some old kerosene darkroom safelights. I loved the shape, color of the filter and she was asking 2 for \$1. I immediately thought of using these lamps as a light source to illuminate a night scene. I arranged the safelight, anatomy textbook and stethoscope. The set was lit by a small LED light which was camera left. To create the beam of light effect, in Photoshop I created a gradient on an angle and masked off the areas where I did not want this gradient to appear. Because I used a gradient the light appears to be falling off towards the end of the book. The conversion to mono was done in Nik Silver Efex Pro with a sepia tone. Nikon D850 24-120 f/4 lens at 44mm, ISO 64, f/8, 1/6 second.



Pitted Cherry - Larry Shapiro, Pictorial Color Print ▶

The spoon with the pitted cherry was positioned on a crackle background. I made this background by spreading crackle paste (available at most artist supply companies). To get this degree of crackle you need to spread the paste on rather thick and then let it dry. The crackle paste is white and I painted the surface with a brown acrylic both for the color and to protect the surface. The scene was illuminated by light painting with a small diffuse LED flashlight. The total exposure was 20 seconds at ISO 64 f/11. Camera: Nikon D850 24-120 f/4 lens at 75mm. What I found was that I could not illuminate the spoon without casting a red reflection from the cherry which I did not like. So in Photoshop I added a Hue/Saturation layer to turn the color from brown to blue and then a B&W conversion with a mask that only showed the bowl of the spoon. Results: no red reflection and an overall better image.



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

What Could Possibly Go Wrong - Kathmandu 2019, Alan Levenson, Travel Projected ▶

My photo, “What Could Possibly Go Wrong” was taken while wandering the streets of Katmandu while still in shock at the third world nature of that city. I discovered later that the cluster of wires in this photo was really not unusual and eventually I became inured and stopped taking photos of them. Note the use of a metal ladder (and avenue for electricity to ground) by the apparently uninformed workers. Note the smiling girl walking towards the camera apparently also taken with the scene. Or maybe she thought I was cute. The cart in the foreground is a typical bicycle taxi. Taken in 2019 with a Nikon D850 28-300 lens. Aperture $f/6$ 1/60 62mm ISO 100.



◀ In Guilin China, a rice farmer uses a hand sickle to harvest her crop, May 2019 - Jim Katzman, Travel Print

We traveled to China before the Corona Virus breakout in September 2019. We were traveling with three other couples including Jerry Held. During the trip, Jerry and I asked our tour guide if we could get out of the main part of Guilin to try and find some “real people” to photograph. We came upon this farming area and had some really good subjects. Our Chinese guide went down and struck up conversations with several farmers and explained that we were photographers looking for unposed photos of them working. This woman happened to look up at me while working. When I first printed this photo, I thought it was kind of soft around the rice stalks and didn’t submit it a while ago because I thought it was flawed. But her face and hands were in sharp focus and I submitted it this month and the judge thought that the rice stalks had motion blur and made the photo dynamic (maybe it was motion blur... that was not my intent, however!).

Details: Shot with a Sony A9 mirrorless camera and a Sony 24-70 mm GM lens at 49mm, ISO 100, $f/9.0$, aperture priority. Printed on Hanemühle Museum Etching paper.

The Agora Nature Photo Contest

An incredible shot of a long-tongued chameleon snatching a dragonfly (below) has won the best nature photograph in global photography social network Agora's latest contest. New Atlas has selected some astonishing highlights from the top 50 finalists, spanning a sublime array of beautiful perspectives on the natural world.

Agora presents itself as a social network, similar to Instagram or Flickr, but with a particular focus on HD images, protected by watermarks. Different themed mini-contests appear on the platform every week, with the best photograph, voted on by the community, winning US\$1,000. See more images here:

<https://newatlas.com/digital-cameras/agora-best-nature-photography-2020-gallery/>



'Miracle'. South Africa by Reiko T.



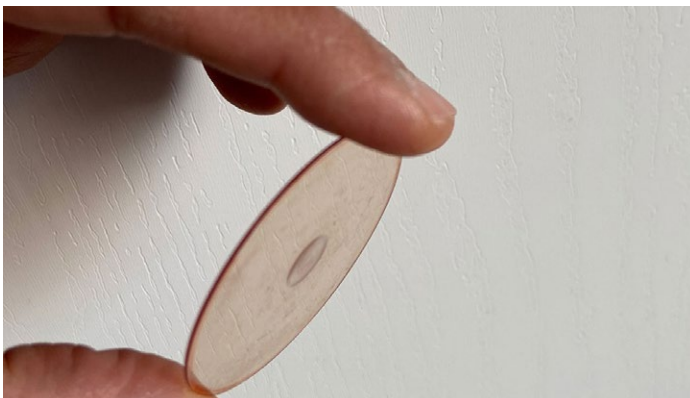
'Strike'. Jakarta, Indonesia

Some Things New

Focus Free Lens - from Petapixel

Scientists have created a new focus-free camera using an ultra-flat lens that “eliminates the need for focusing.” The development could have an impact on both photography and a wide range of industries.

The research is being done by a team led by Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor Rajesh Menon of the University of Utah, who reported the development of the lens back in October 2019. Using that lens, which only measures about 1/1000th of an inch thick, Menon and his team created a new camera that doesn't need to be focused. While traditional camera lenses use multiple lens elements and need to adjust the relative positioning of those elements to nail focus on subjects, the new flat lens provides “extreme depth-of-focus imaging” that keeps all subjects in focus.



This flat lens is 1/1000th of an inch thick but can give amazing depth of field to all cameras or devices using it.

The researchers say their latest breakthrough came when they realized that there were other ways to direct light besides using traditional lenses to turn parallel light waves into spherical ones that converge on a focal spot. “In stark contrast to what is taught in optics textbooks, our research has shown that there is more than one way that light transmission is affected by an ideal lens – a concept known as pupil function,” Menon says. “This opened essentially infinite possibilities for the lens pupil function, and we searched through these possibilities for one that achieved an extreme depth of focus.”

More- at <https://petapixel.com/2020/03/16/scientists-create-focus-free-camera-using-an-ultra-flat-lens/>

Killing Viruses on Your Equipment - from Petapixel



“Current evidence suggests that novel coronavirus may be with us for awhile and it can remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials,” the CDC warns on its website. “Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.” Here's a look at how you can keep frequently touched items virus-free as a photographer.

Smart phones:

Perhaps the one item touched the most throughout the day for most people is the smartphone. Phones can generally be wiped down with disinfectant wipes that contain at least 70% alcohol. *Apple updated its online guide for cleaning its products this week, telling customers that it's perfectly fine to use disinfectant wipes.*

Cameras and Lenses:

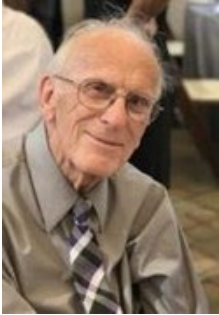
You can also use disinfectant wipes to get rid of germs on your cameras and lenses. “From the camera side there's nothing that can't be wiped down with bacteriocidal wipes,” says camera expert and LensRentals founder Roger Cicala, who was formerly a doctor before his gear rental business took off. “Anything that's 60% or more alcohol should be effective against coronavirus.

Returned equipment has always been wiped down with alcohol at LensRentals even before the days of COVID-19, and Cicala notes that it should be perfectly safe to wipe down the front elements of lenses with alcohol.

Full article: <https://petapixel.com/2020/03/12/how-to-disinfect-your-camera-gear-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Information and Education

In Memoriam Melbourne (Mel) Edward Rabedeau Jr.
Jan 1, 1930 - Feb 21, 2020



Melbourne Edward Rabedeau Jr passed away peacefully on February 21, 2020 surrounded by family. The second of four children born to father Melbourne Sr and mother Mary Rose Mohr Rabedeau, Mel Jr was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin on January 19, 1930. Mel attended school in Wisconsin, Texas, and

New York, served his country in the Korean conflict, and married Veronica “Ronnie” Weitze on June 9, 1954. Three children followed in quick succession. In 1960 the family moved cross country from Rochester, NY, to Saratoga, CA, where Mel joined the IBM San Jose development facility and worked until his retirement in 1991. In retirement Mel rekindled an interest in photography which became a consuming passion. Mel is survived by his wife of over 65 years and the love of his life, Ronnie, their three children, and four grandchildren: Jeanine, Louise and spouse Paul and daughters Christina and Marissa, Thomas and spouse Jane and their children Jennifer and John. In lieu of flowers please donate to the Alzheimer’s Association.

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus, we have postponed the Celebration of Life. Please email Rabedeaufamily@gmail.com for information on the date and location.

Photos to make in isolation – by Larry Shapiro

Still life is a great subject for photography while we are all in social isolation at home. Here are some tips to get you started in still life photography.



Still life image search, Google Image appears to be by Cindy Hartman

1. Choose subjects that speak to you. Search the house for something simple but interesting. Something that catches your eye
2. Get comfortable with light and lighting. Use natural light from a window but you can use table lamps, flashlights and reflectors. Reflectors can be just white paper or foam core to bounce window light into shadows.
3. Work with a tripod but don't let it fix your angle of view. Look for high and low angles. Since the subject is not moving, feel free to use small f/stops for depth of field and long exposures are easy with a tripod.
4. Get the background right. A painted wall is great.
5. Compose the shot. Try using different elements of composition like triangles, rule of thirds etc.
6. Take all day. I put up a composition, set the lights and make a few shots. Then import them into the computer to really go over the images on a large screen. It's amazing how much is missed on the camera back.
7. Get inspired by the masters. Google still life and you will find great still life photos and paintings.
8. I tend to shoot at the lowest ISO so when I post process I can recover both shadows and highlights better.
9. Practice — your first attempts may not work but with practice you will improve.

Great Photography Articles

Underexposed Easy Fix - <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/common-photo-problems>

10 Photo Things to do - <https://petapixel.com/2020/03/19/10-things-to-do-when-stuck-at-home-as-a-photographer/>

7 Silhouette Photo Tips - <https://petapixel.com/2020/02/11/7-tips-for-taking-the-perfect-beach-silhouette-photo/>

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