



# Newsletter

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April 2015

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## *Reminders*

### **New Competition Rules**

Starting with our April competition, members can enter a total of four (4) images into the monthly competitions with a maximum of two (2) images in any one **category** and a maximum of two (2) images in any one **medium**.

This means only two prints and two digital images. It also means only two images in a single category (Color, Monochrome, Nature, Travel, or Photojournalism). You cannot enter two Color prints and two Color digital images, only a total of two in a category.

We also updated our Nature and Monochrome definitions to match those of the Photographic Society of America.

## *Coming Club Events*

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

### **Saturday March 28, 2015**

2-5 pm Reception for "Waterways" Exhibit in Le Petit Trianon at De Anza College

### **Sunday March 29, 2015**

Field Trip: Pinnacles National Park and Milky Way Shoot

### **Saturday April 4, 2015**

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

### **Monday April 6, 2015**

5pm Online Print Entry Deadline

7:15pm Print Entry Deadline

Competition: Color, Monochrome, Travel

Judge: Chris Cassell

Refreshments:

Susan Dinga, Jeff Katz, Jim Katzman

### **Monday April 20, 2015**

Program: Underwater Photography presented by Ken Bloomfield

### **Saturday May 02, 2015**

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

# **WATER WAYS**

**A LENS ON CULTURE AND NATURE  
FROM RIVER TO BAY TO OCEAN**

**MARCH 20 - JUNE 21, 2015**

**OPENING RECEPTION: SATURDAY MARCH 28 FROM 2-5 PM**



## **LE PETIT TRIANON AT THE DE ANZA COLLEGE CAMPUS**

**AN EXHIBIT OF PHOTOGRAPHS CO-SPONSORED BY THE LOS GATOS-SARATOGA  
CAMERA CLUB AND THE CALIFORNIA HISTORY MUSEUM**

**THE GALLERY IS OPEN FOR VIEWING M-F 9:30 - 4PM  
SATURDAYS, APRIL 18, 25; MAY 16, JUNE 13, 1- 4PM**

## Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

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The judge was Dan Katzman. 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.

### March 2015 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced

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*Alignment - Venus, Mars, and the Crescent Moon above Pigeon Point Lighthouse*  
Rick Whitacre

I knew this alignment was coming several weeks before and put a reminder on my calendar for the afternoon of February 20, 2015 to come up with a shot for it. I knew that the planets and moon were going to be roughly 260-270 degrees as they approached the horizon and started looking at westerly foregrounds. Since the sun was well down by the time the planets and moon were going to be close to the horizon, I knew that the foreground either had to be a very strong silhouette or self-lit (like the GG Bridge, city skyline, etc). There was a possible shot from Treasure Island of the South Tower of the Golden Gate Bridge, but I just didn't want to drive into the city yesterday, so kept looking.

I found that the alignment matched very well with typical shooting locations for Pigeon Point Lighthouse. I like the lighthouse, but it presents some pretty daunting challenges; fog, sea spray, moisture in the air, and the very bright lights from the hostel and the beacon itself. Nevertheless, I set out for the lighthouse around 5:00pm to give myself enough time.

I knew I was going to be at 200mm (or more) for the shot, which means that I would need to keep the shutter duration at 2 seconds or less to avoid streaking the planets, stars, and surface of the moon. This requires a pretty high ISO (12,800 or more) at f/2.8 (and even higher at f/4) to be able to preserve any detail in the foreground. I decided to keep my 70-200 at f/2.8 instead of adding the extender to give it more reach, but at the loss of a stop of light.

I took a bunch of test shots as the planets and moon were setting and the sky got darker and darker as the sun got further below the horizon. I settled on exposure brackets centered around 0.5s at f/2.8. Shooting five shots at 1eV steps, this gave me exposures from 2s down to 1/4s. I ended up using the 1s exposure. All at ISO 12,800.

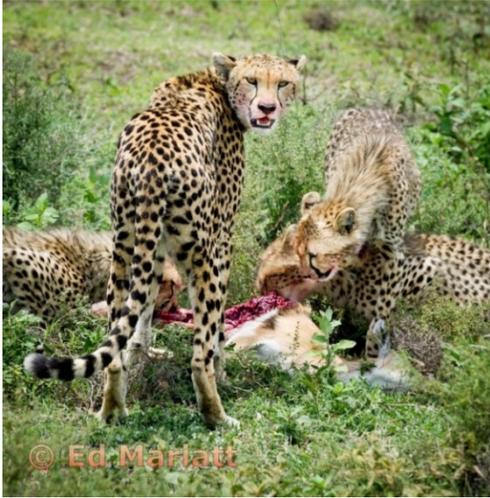
The moon is incredibly challenging, even when in crescent phase. The sunlit portion is WAY too many stops above anything else in the sky and on the ground. I decided to let the sunlit crescent blow out and went for details in the earthshine portion of the moon. By making this decision, I was able to use a single exposure to make the image. There is a lot of highlight and shadow recovery going on here, but the Sony A7S image holds up pretty well. There is noise, of course, but it is very well behaved. I did a triptych from this night on flickr at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ricosanchez/16625676595/>

Sony A7S, Canon 70-200mm f/2.8 @f/2.8, 200mm, 1 second, ISO12,800

## March 2015 First Place Nature Print

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***Tanzanian Cheetahs (Acinonyx Jubatus raineyii) with Thompson Gazelle Kill, Serengeti National Park, Tanzania***  
Ed Marlatt

The image I submitted was one of two dozen images that sequentially began with several hours of waiting while photographing the behavior of a female cheetah and her three cubs. It was never my intention to photograph a kill.

My guide and I had been watching the approach of migrating Thomson Gazelles; however they were out of range to photograph. Then the unthinkable happened, one young gazelle broke from the herd and was moving directly toward our location whereupon, the female cheetah and her cubs took cover, waiting for their opportunity to attack. The gazelle continued to within 100 meters upwind of our location and then with blazing speed the cheetah accelerated toward the gazelle. Almost in sync, my driver fired up the Land Rover and joined in the chase while I was precariously atop the vehicle's roof with my D3s and 300mm 2.8.

My driver, Honest, yes his name is Honest, got so excited he forgot about me atop the vehicle where I had been photographing the cheetah family. During our chase we hit a large hole and subsequently blew out two tires and I was bucked off the roof landing on the cargo rack. I subsequently came away with three broken ribs; however, I did save the camera and got the shot of a lifetime.

Camera: Nikon D3s. Lens: Nikon 300mm 2.8. Bean Bag lens support. No Filters F8 ISO 400 1/640 Raw  
Digital Process: Bridge, Camera Raw, Adobe Photoshop CC 2014

## March 2015 First Place Nature Digital Projected Image - Advanced

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***Cheetah with fresh lunch***  
Uwe Schmalenbach

The shot I always wanted. The image was taken on my safari last February in Tanzania. I have to give credit to my driver/guide who knew how long to wait and where to go to see the cheetah after the hunt.

Of course a series of images with shutter priority at 1/2000 canon 5D MkIII with 100-400 lens at full 400 f 5.6, ISO 800. Slight crop and minor light adjustments in Lightroom.



## March 2015 First Place Nature Digital Projected Image - Basic



*Dragonfly Laying Eggs*  
*Rachel Hunter*

I tried to identify this dragonfly by asking the Lassen National Park rangers on the day I shot it as well as online last week, but never could find its name. It landed a few feet from me while I was picnicking on the edge of Manzanita Lake. I only had a few seconds, so let my camera do all the work - all settings on auto.

In Photoshop, I cropped the photo and burned some of the greenery around the edges as it was obnoxiously chartreuse and distracting.

## March 2015 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic

*Homeless in Chinatown, San Francisco*  
*Michael Schneider*

The subject caught my attention because of the expression on his face that reflects the hard life he lives. I tried to capture that feeling. I also liked the position of his head, his hat and jacket and his cup. I honestly did not think of the role played by the newspaper box in placing his location in San Francisco until the judge pointed that out.

The image was taken with my Nikon D7000, 157 mm focal length (full frame equivalent), 1/500 sec, ISO 1000, f/5.6, with -2/3 EV. The only processing I did was some cropping and exposure adjustment.



## March 2015 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image



*Hand in hand*  
*Roberta Schwartz*

We were taking care of my granddaughter, Camelia. She's now 7 years old (of course, we don't get older). My husband was playing with her very tiny hand. And I couldn't resist capturing the moment. Originally, this was a color photograph, but I felt it had more impact in black and white.

I used a Canon EOS Digital Rebel. F stop 5.6; exposure time= 1/40; ISO= 1600; focal length = 135

## March 2015 First Place Monochrome Print

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*In The Dead Stillness Morning*  
Serena Hartoog

A year ago I saw a photo image that had thousands of birds flying in the sky at an art show. I decided to take a similar image of the birds someday too.

In January I saw a friend's Facebook post of an image that had hundreds of golden birds flying above the [Merced National Wildlife Refuge](#).

That reminded me of the image I wanted to take. So I gathered friends together on Valentine's Day to go to shoot flying birds at sunrise.

We got up very early and drove to Merced around 5:30 am. We hit the biggest fog I have ever seen. Of course we did not see the golden sunrise and the flying birds in the sky.

Around 7:20 am the sun burst through the fog, so we could see a few birds in the marsh, so I took this image.

The camera settings: Canon 5D M III, 70-200 mm lens, ISO: 800, F 6.3, 1/1000 sec

## March 2015 First Place Color Print

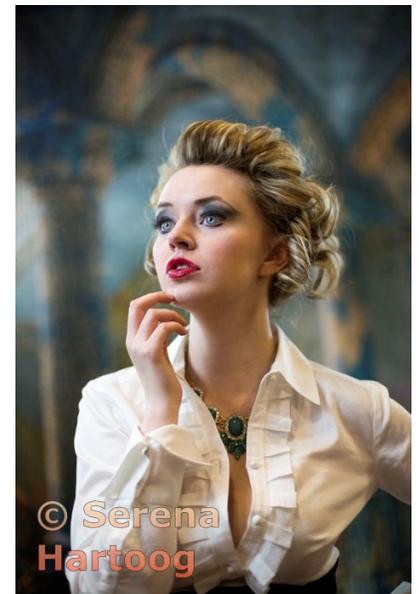
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*Doe-eyed Damsel*  
Serena Hartoog

I was at the [PPA](#) conference last month. There was an expo to demonstrate Sigma lens sharpness. They handed me a Sigma lens to take the picture of the model. The last day I went by and saw the same model.

I told her I would like to take pictures of her and I would send her the images when I got home. She was very happy to let me take pictures of her. I was using two still lights and had her face the main light.

Camera setting is: Canon 5D M III, 50mm prime lens. ISO: 400, F/1.8, 1/640sec

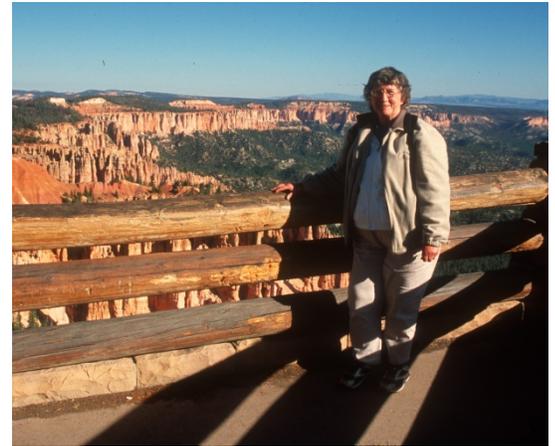


## Meet JoAn Lambert

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I grew up in Portland in the rain and when I found sunny skies and palm trees in San Jose on a visit in the early 1950's, I knew that this was a place I wanted to live. It took a while, but finally ended up in San Jose with a growing family in 1960 and moved to Saratoga in 1972. Note: It is much easier to photograph in the sunshine than in the rain, and California, with its wealth of scenic areas, flowers and birds of all kinds, is a place where one never runs out of material, including in one's own backyard..

As a teenager, I remember photographing friends with a Kodak Brownie camera and using the upstairs bathroom that my brother and I shared to make prints, much to his dismay. Then came college, marriage and a family. As the years went by, I took family and vacation pictures, but there was not time for much else. Camping, boating and water skiing were a big part of family life with pictures of everyone on water skis at Lake Shasta. Along the way, I also went back to college and graduated from San Jose State with a degree in English in 1975. That same year I went back to work and served as the financial officer for a small engineering and testing company in Santa Clara (staying there until retirement).



Fast forward to 1983 when I saw a travel article about “Animals, Animal, Animals!!” in Tanzania and my interest in photography came alive again. I purchased my first good Nikon SLR for that trip and realized that I needed to learn much more about photography, so upon my return I enrolled in West Valley College for a few photography classes. I also joined the Camera Club in the mid 1980's where I was mentored by former member, Fan Winer. Learning from the critiques and seeing other members work through the years has truly enhanced my enjoyment of photography.



Photography has also taken me to places I might never have seen otherwise, and I have been fortunate enough to have visited Africa several times, including one visit to Kenya where I made a trip 200 miles north of Nairobi by local bus to visit the village where my son had served in the Peace Corp teaching welding and metal shop to Junior College students. I stayed with the head mistress and we spent that evening looking at her photo album and comparing notes on women in the workplace. Quite a trip and lots of shared photos, particularly since there was only one camera in the whole village.

I have also enjoyed traveling and photographing in many places in the Far East, including Myanmar, Nepal, Tibet, and Bhutan (to see the black-necked cranes) and also fulfilled a lifelong dream of floating down the Amazon a few years ago (no fingers in the water, please!) as well as hiking around Machu Picchu. The best part of that trip was the opportunity to photograph up close

the birds and animals of the Galapagos. Travel and photography have also given me the opportunity to meet and talk to many different people in different countries and I have enjoyed this tremendously.

In the U.S. I find the Florida Everglades a great place to photograph birds - as well as an alligator here and there, and there are a number of refuges not too far apart. Closer by, the “red rock country” in Southern Utah is also a wonderful place to visit and to photograph and would highly recommend it to anyone who loves fantastic scenery and color - and it is easy to get to!

Some of my favorite subjects are animals, birds and flowers which I like to photograph as realistically as possible, as well as grandchildren, whenever possible. I enjoy photographing flowers in my backyard and growing fuchsias. I have belonged to a fuchsia club for a number of years and enjoy entering fuchsia images each year in the photo contest. I have taken a number of classes and interesting workshops through the years and, several years ago, finally moved up to the digital age with a Nikon digital camera. As a former slide photographer of many years, I have enjoyed being able to take numerous images with the digital camera without having to worry about running out of film and also without having to haul heavy backpacks full of film!



The Camera Club has provided many opportunities to learn more about photography and the photographers in it and continues to do so. When I joined in the mid 80's, there were only about 35 members, so we all got to know each other and took turns sharing many of the jobs in the club. The club has grown so fast in the last few years that it is not as easy to get to know everyone now, so that has become a challenge.

Finally, I had the honor of receiving the Carolyn Ramsay Award in 2010 and will always remember Carolyn as someone who was always ready and willing to help another photographer with any problem, any time, something we should all strive for.

### ***Travel Competition Definition***

A Travel picture must express the feeling of a time and place, portray a land, its people or a culture in its natural state, and has no geographic limitations. Ultra close-ups which lose their identity, studio-type model shots, or photographic manipulations which misrepresent the true situation or alter the content of the image are unacceptable in Travel competition.

No manipulation or modification 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. Borders are not permitted.

The title should give the location and complement the travel story.

### ***Key Contacts***

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