



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

Newsletter

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June 2017

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Reminders

Annual Club Picnic at La Rinconada 19 June 2017

It is that time of year when we like to get together and socialize at our annual picnic at the Rinconada Country Club. The picnic is open to all members and their guests. Cost: \$10 per person which goes to the Country Club. Please pay Susan Anawalt or Jeff Balfus.

Bring your own main dish, your beverage of choice, dishes, cutlery, etc and one of the 3 dishes listed below to share with 8-10 people. BBQ facilities available. Susan Anawalt will have sign up sheets for the 3 dishes listed below at our meeting on Monday June 5, 2017.

1. Appetizers
2. Salads
3. Desserts

Susan would like to ask for a few volunteers to assist with set-up at 5:30 pm and clean-up after. Please note***no glass or breakable dishes on the patio. You may bring wine.

Creative Definition as per the LG-SCC Website

Coming Club Events

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

Saturday June 3, 2017

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

Monday June 5, 2017

5pm Online Print Entry Deadline
7:15pm Walk In Print Entry Deadline
Color, Monochrome, Creative
Judge: Hal Green

Refreshments: Boyd Jones, Jeff
Katz, Jim Katzman

Monday June 19, 2017 at 6pm:

[Annual Picnic La Rinconada
Country Club, Los Gatos.](#)

Meet Tim Aston



I was born and raised in the South Bay. In my formative years I had very little contact with any optics of my own. My father has been an amateur astronomer from a young age, and through sheer repetition I unwillingly (at the time) absorbed a fraction of his knowledge. That just about covers my early interest in optics. I didn't so much as take a photography course in high school or spend any real time with a camera. The through-line for my current interest in landscape photography comes from my love of the outdoors. When I was a Cub Scout I was always interested in the longer nature trips. Hikes and overnights were what I looked forward to the most. When I transitioned to Boy Scouts, summer camp in the Sierra was something I continued even after reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. I also worked at Starbucks for three years (the practice of waking up at 4am for work came in handy for sunrise hikes later).

My parents left a firm impression on both my brother and me on how to take vacations. You get in a car, drive for hours, and end up at a campsite. We went to national parks all over the west, from North Cascades all the way down to Death Valley.

A stint in San Diego for college studying Biochemistry and Psychology also introduced me to my wife. My brother was also in San Diego and had a job, so he had money that he was figuring out how to spend. He decided to start with a Canon 20D and took it wherever he went. He also had a Yosemite habit, and we decided to hike Half Dome one year. We stopped every 20 minutes or so for him to take an inordinate amount of time photographing Vernal Falls, Liberty Cap, Nevada Falls, or a tree, or an interesting rock. He may have just been compensating for being out of shape. I found it immensely irritating.

Once my wife and I graduated, we moved to Los Angeles for work and grad school. I took about a year and a half to realize that research wasn't in my future, so I decided to change course. I started working in finance at a movie studio and worked towards my teaching credential for high school biology. In the middle of my identity crisis, my wife strongly hinted that she would like a DSLR camera for her birthday and upcoming trip to Israel. I did some research on lenses that might be useful and I bought her a Canon Rebel and a small assortment of wide angle lenses. I suggested we head over to the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve since the poppies were having a nice bloom. We left at 4:00am in order to reach the poppies in time for sunrise. I gained a new appreciation for the way the golden light swept over small hills as we both looked for nice patches of flowers and took turns using the camera.

After a trip to Yosemite for our anniversary, we decided to get a second camera, and tripods, and lenses, and filters, and... This is where my childhood love of nature met my growing appetite for photography. We explored Yosemite as often as we could and I began consuming the Fred Miranda forums. I looked for what speaks to me in a photograph and I refined my eye. New mistakes wrought new techniques, and new critiques brought new ideas. During summers and breaks I regularly travel around the state of California and other scenic areas around the western US. Generally I travel to where the weather is interesting and look for opportunity in what is special about an area at the moment.

I finally decided to spend some money on something other than lenses and attend a workshop with my favorite landscape photographer, Michael Frye. I listened to his critiques of the workshop participants' photographs, and I got a better idea of what the photographer's eye should look for than any book on composition, mood, and light could convey. It was this experience that really initiated a clearer vision for what I wanted to say in my photography: nature will speak for its own conservation if we listen at the right times.

Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

The judge was Melanie Lewert. 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.

May2017FirstPlaceColor/PictorialProjectedAdvanced



The Color of Dance
Larry Shapiro

This image was made during a workshop in 2010 with a great teacher Elizabeth Opalenik. While the workshop was on portraiture, much of the workshop was spent photographing the other workshop participants, Elizabeth had a number of dancers for us to photograph. In the last few hours of the workshop I asked one of the dancers to work with me on movement studies. We went to a nearby schoolyard and used a long blank wall as a background. The dancer ran and jumped swirling two different colored cloths. In just a little over an hour I made over 600 exposures. This particular image was made on a Nikon D300 with the 17-35 f/2.8 lens at a 28 mm focal length. The exposure was 1/10 second at f/13 at an ISO 125. Interestingly, this image was made about a third of the way through the session. It took awhile to coordinate my camera movement with the dancer.

May 2017 First Place Color/Pictorial Print - Advanced

This image was taken just after sunset at mid-tide, at an oft-photographed coastal spot in Northern CA. I had the good fortune of being the only photographer there on this evening in February. It was a bit challenging as I had my tripod straddling one of the 3-foot diameter boulders and I was on a boulder behind as the waves were coming in and washing over the rocks. The “misty” look of the water and the soft blurring of the clouds was achieved by using a 10-stop neutral density filter which slowed the shutter down to 2 minutes. Nikon D810, 24-70 f2.8 lens at 24mm, f16, ISO 200. Clarity, highlights and shadow balancing in Lightroom.



Bowling Balls At Sunset
Tim Meadows

May 2017 First Place Photojournalism Projected-Advanced

This picture was taken at the Evolution Sports Expo at the Santa Clara Convention Center in March of 2017. The convention had a number of different sports competitions and demos from power lifting and Crossfit to wrestling entertainment. I was there because my son was participating in a Parkour demo with the San Jose Parkour team. One of the major events was about 7 officially sanctioned boxing matches, mostly with participants in their late teens and twenties including one pair of women. The boxers pictured were the youngest participants as well as the most aggressive and brutal. Boxing is not normally something I would watch or take pictures of, but I used it as a challenge to try and get something that captured the situation. It was very difficult to get good images, the light was not very good and the action very fast. The contestants were constantly moving around the ring and frequently had their back to me or had their faces hidden. The ropes of the ring were also hard to work around but the small venue provide an advantage. Since the crowd was very small and there was seating only on one side, I was able to get right up to the ropes in one corner. This allowed me shoot through the gap in the ropes getting an unobstructed view for about half the ring. I just ended up taking lots of shots, getting a little better over time at prediction when to shoot. I was using my 5DM2 which only shoots 3 frames a second, which way too slow to count on burst mode to catch a good shot. So for me, getting a good image was as much luck as anything else. The boy in the white shorts looked like he was doing well until he got hurt. They stopped the fight briefly to check him out and then continued. The fight was finally stopped and ended by the ref as shown in the picture shortly after that. I used my 70-200 zoom lens set at 125mm for this shot, f2.8, 1/320 of second. I used manual exposure to keep the metering from changing due to shifts in the background lighting. About 20% of the right side was cropped off to tighten the composition



Referee Stops Boxing Match of 11 Year Old Boy at Sport Convention
Don Schremp

May 2017 First Place Photojournalism Print - Advanced



Coming Around the Final Turn into the Stretch at Del Mar Race Track
Jim Katzman

Some friends were celebrating their 70th birthday and had a party in Southern California. They took us to the horse races at Del Mar race track. I brought my (then new) Canon 7d Mark II camera because of its fast frame shooting rate. I left my seat and went down as low to the track as I could and shot towards the turn to get the most action in one frame. I loved this one frame because almost no hooves were touching the ground with plenty of flying dirt from the track all of which gave the scene action and movement. Camera specifics: EF 28-300 L glass lens shot at 300mm, 1/500" at f/8.0. Shot 8/29/2015 and processed in Lightroom and Photoshop. Cropped to a pano.

May 2017 First Place Monochrome Projected - Advanced



Mute Swan
Larry Rosier

This image was taken during a photo shoot with John Perry at the Los Gatos Creek Park. I had bought a new lens for use at the 2012 Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and I wanted to try out the lens, which was a Nikkor 300mm f/4.0. I used it with a 1.4 TC and a D300S camera body. The effective focal length was 630mm. This lens does not have VR, and I used a monopod. Exposure conditions were ISO 400, f/8.0, and 1/500 sec. Recently I was looking over some old images in Lightroom. When I came across this one I pressed the “v” key to see what a mono version would look like. I liked it enough to go to Silver Effex Pro 2 to optimize it.

May 2017 First Place Monochrome Print - Advanced

This shot was taken at the same place as my “Bowling Balls at Sunset” image, but on the next night. There was another photographer there, so I had to improvise. I wanted to highlight this set of boulders that was not yet wet, against the dramatic sky and setting sun. To increase my dynamic range in this ultra-contrast scene, I shot 3 bracketed images and processed them in HDR Efex Pro. Once adjusted in color, I then converted to monochrome where the contrast was better suited. Nikon D810, 24-70 f2.8 at 24mm, 1/40-1/15 sec, f16, ISO 125.



The Boulders and Beyond
Tim Meadows

May 2017 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image-Basic



*Ramona Falls-Mount Hood-
Oregon-2016* **Alan Levenson**

Photo was taken with a Nikon D800. 2 second exposure at F20 and 200 ISO and 35mm. A Tripod was used. The falls are near Mount Hood Oregon about 42 miles from Portland. It is accessed by a trail with a round trip of about 7 miles. There is a river crossing. The bridge is temporary and removed each winter. Crossing the river when the bridge has not been replaced can be difficult.

May 2017 First Place Photojournalism Projected-Basic



1



2



3



4


Spring Roundup is a 4 image sequence Richard Ingles

Canon EOS 7D
ISO 100
Exposure Mode: Tv
Aperture: 5
Shutter speed 1/320 sec.
Canon Lens 100-400mm IS USM
Focal Length: 190mm
Subject distance 44m

Canãda Larga is a small country road in Ventura County. It is popular as an Audubon birding location. Airdrie and I were in the area anxious to photograph exotic birds on spring migration. As we passed a corral with cattle and cowboys, we knew we had a photo op. We had our birding lenses with us so we were able to stay about 150 feet away. Stark, bright, mid-morning, sunlight and shooting with an ISO of 100 allowed for a shutter speed of 1/320 sec. and an aperture of 5.

I narrowed the photoshoots' images to about 6 then kept re arranging them for a single image selection. The photos were okay individually. It took a while, but eventually the series took shape. Three individual minor stories were revealed and the 4th image summarized the essence of the Spring Round-up.

Key Contacts

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