Los Gatos/Saratoga Camera Club Newsletter

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Reminders

Restricted Challenge Categories

Although Color, Monochrome, and Creative allow unlimited manipulation, the Nature, Travel, and Photo Journalism categories have definite rules about what changes can be made to a digital image. Be sure to read the definition carefully before entering. In addition to being on the web site, the definition for Nature, the challenge category for March, is also on the last page of this newsletter.

New (and not so New) Member Information

The Welcome New Members! page available from the News and Information page on the web site.

Liability Waiver

Be sure to sign the liability waiver for field trips. A copy if on the Field Trip section of the Downloads page when you are signed on to the web site.

Volunteer Opportunity

See Bambi about filling the Assistant position for the club Secretary.

Coming Club Events

See the Events page or Event Calendar on our web site for updates or further details.

Saturday, March 03, 2012
Deadline for March digital Image entries
12:00 noon 6C 2011 Awards Lunch at Harry's Hofbrau.

Monday, March 05, 2012
Competition: Nature, Color, Monochrome
Judge - Duane Pepper
Refreshments - Jeffrey Balfus, Ken Bloomfield, and Molly Gaylord

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
Deadline for emailing digital walk-ins for the March 6C competition

Thursday, March 15 - June 19, 2012
Exhibit at Los Gatos Town Council Chambers (LGTCC)

Saturday, March 17, 2012
6C's Competition (Creative, Nature, Color, Monochrome).
Walk-Ins and February & March Winners.

Monday, March 19, 2012
Program - Big Sur, Yosemite, and Africa presented by Douglas Steakly
Refreshments - Sandra Breiten, Bo Brezoczky, John Bujak

Thursday, March 22, 2012
6 pm Reception Exhibit at LGTCC

Saturday, March 31, 2012
Deadline for April digital image entries

Meet Larry Rosier

I was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and I spent my early childhood in Little Rock, Arkansas. I had asthma, and this caused my family to move to Albuquerque, New Mexico when I was in the seventh grade. I became interested in photography, and when I was 14 I got a summer job at a camera store. At the camera store I waited on customers and learned to do custom processing in the store's darkroom. My wife and I had our first date in the eighth grade, and she recalls my talking about Ansel Adams. I was very taken with his "zone system". I became interested in sports photography, and I took basketball and football photographs for the newspaper. I used a Rolleicord with a stroboscopic flash that was powered by a lead acid battery.

I considered pursing a career in photography but decided to study engineering at the University of New Mexico as a backup. I quickly concluded that it was a lot easier to earn a living as an engineer. I received a BS in Electrical Engineering, and Mary Ann and I got married. She supported us by teaching grade school while I got a MS in Electrical Engineering. I accepted a job in 1961 with IBM in Poughkeepsie, New York where I worked on the development of semiconductor devices for IBM's System 360 computers. In 1966 IBM sent me to the University of Illinois where I got a PhD in Physics. In 1969 I returned to IBM at the Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Height, New York where I worked on magnetic bubble devices. In 1973 I was transferred to IBM's San Jose Research Laboratory to start a magnetic bubble research program. In 1982 I became involved with advanced magnetic recording technology. Throughout my career at IBM my photography was limited to family and vacation photos. In 1986 I upgraded from my 1956 Swiss SLR to a Nikon F3 for a trip to Kenya.

When Canon brought out the Rebel I replaced my Nikon F3 with the Rebel. Four years ago Mary Ann and I made a trip to the Galapagos Islands on a Lindblad/National Geographic Photographic Expedition. This experience rekindled my interest in photography. Soon after returning from the Galapagos Islands I did a Google search of camera clubs in this area, and this led me to our club. Soon after joining the club I took an introductory Photoshop course from John Gerhardt, and he was very helpful teaching me the ropes. I attended a NatureScapes workshop three years ago at Bosque del Apache, and this led to my getting hooked on their web site (http://www.naturescapes.net/docs/). I have learned a lot from their site where I have found that I can frequently get answers to my questions. John Perry introduced me to Scott Kelby's online training (http://kelbytraining.com/). I have found this to be an incredible learning tool. For $199 one receives 24-hour access to over 200 one-plus hour video training sessions for a period of one year.

In addition to photography my other principal activities are golf, cooking, and church treasurer. Some of my photography interests are landscape, wildlife, city scenes, portraiture, and flash. I did quite a bit of traveling in my career with IBM. My non-IBM traveling highlights have been Kenya, the Galapagos Islands, and Antarctica. One of my traveling challenges is finding locations and situations that provide photography opportunities and are also interesting for my wife. The Lindblad/National Geographic Expeditions seem to meet these requirements.

My wife and I have two children and five grandchildren that are located in the Santa Clara and San Diego areas.

January Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

We asked each of the makers of the February first place images to send stories about what their image was, how it was made, and when, where, and why it was taken.

February 2012 First Place Monochrome Print

Bristlecone By Starlight
John Perry

Bristlecone pine is some of the oldest living trees in the world. A tree like the one in the photograph is over 4000 years old. This tree was located in the Patriarch Grove on the 14000 ft. high White Mtn. just outside of Big Pine, CA. Located in this grove is the oldest tree of them all named "Methuselah" and it is reported to be 4789 years old. The Forest Service keeps the location of Methuselah a secret for fear of vandalism.

Larry Rosier and myself decided to venture up to the Patriarch Grove for some photography. This photograph was taken at about 9pm. I used my Nikon D700 with a 14-24mm lens set at 14mm, f/2.8, ISO800 and a shutter speed of 25 sec. The tree was painted with a low intensity flash light for about 10 sec at the end of the 25 sec exposure. The original photograph was taken in color but was converted to a B&W using Nik's Silver Efex Pro.

February 2012 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

This is a Fuji Velvia 50 color slide that I scanned using a Nikon Super Coolscan 5000 ED, cropped to eliminate excess sky and snow, and converted in Photoshop CS5 using Image - Adjustments - Black & White.

One January a couple of days before a North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) conference in Las Vegas, I rented a car and drove to the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park hoping to see snow on the red rocks. There were very few people in the park at that time of year and most of them were from other countries. Shortly before taking this image, I chatted with a couple from Patagonia.

It had snowed the previous night. While I was walking along the paved rim trail from Yavapai Point back to El Tovar Lodge, it began to snow again. When I spotted this twisted tree off the trail at the edge of the cliff, I had one of those weird experiences where the tree "spoke" to me and insisted that I photograph it.

I walked carefully from the trail through the snow and set up the tripod just far enough from the edge to feel safe. At the time, I liked the combination of the snow, red rocks muted by the mist, brown bark, and green leaves. After our club added monochrome digital projected images, I came across this slide and wondered how it would look without the colors.

Tree on Canyon Rim
Airdrie Kincaid

February 2012 First Place Creative Print

Winter Monarchs
Don Schremp

For a number of years I have wanted take pictures of the clumps of wintering Monarchs at Natural Bridges state park. Unfortunately, every time I have gone, the Monarchs were not there. I recently heard the Monarch also overwinter at Ardenwood park in Newark. This was one of the times I have gone to take pictures with a specific idea of what I wanted to do with them creatively. While I wasn't sure how the picture would turn out or exactly how I would create the picture, I wanted to have a silhouette of a clump of Monarchs against a background created from their wing patterns. At Ardenwood, there were not too many butterflies, about 4 or 5 clumps. They were hard to photograph because it was dark in the trees where they hang and the closest clumps were about 20 feet up. I used my 100 - 400 zoom with my 40D with 1.6 crop factor so I could get as close a shot as possible.

For the wing pattern, I picked the closest clump. Since it was dark and there was a slight breeze, I had to balance the ISO setting, shutter speed, and aperture settings (400, 1/30, f/8). Because of the shallow depth of field, I tried to capture areas that had the most uniform wing pattern and as much on the same plane as possible. For the silhouette image, there was a bunch of butterflies that was separate and I could isolate against the bright sky. In this case the shutter speed and aperture settings were not critical and I could shoot fast enough with a small enough aperture to get everything in focus and freeze the motion of the flying butterflies. I took several pictures of the clump with butterflies going by. I could never get more than one at a time, so I just cut a few out in Photoshop and added them to the best picture of the clump.

The image is made up of the background shot, copied, rotated and overlaid to make it more interesting. A few holes in the pattern were clone stamped to fill them in. The clump and flying butterflies were overlaid on top.

February 2012 First Place Creative Digital Projected Image

Orange Stars
Harvey Gold

This is a picture of a house plant. I placed it outside against a plain background and used bounced flash to highlight the flowers. I started processing the image in Photoshop and noticed it needed some additional punch. The Tiffen Dfx Photoshop Filters provided just what it needed.

February 2012 First Place Color Print - Advanced

Moonset - Garrapata State Park
Rick Whitacre

I had seen these rocks in several pictures on flickr and set out to find them one day. I located them on a day trip and decided to come back when the conditions were right. Around the time of the full moon, I started watching the weather and making my mental plans. I picked a day when the full moon would be low on the horizon just as the rising sun started lighting up the sky and giving enough light for the foreground rocks. Luckily, the weather cooperated.

I had to climb down the cliffs to the rocky beach in the dark. The waves were pretty erratic for a calm day, so I had to keep dodging them and keep an ear out for any rogues. I took the pictures of the composition I had in mind and then started moving around the beach looking for other compositions. As often happens, this particular shot is not the one I pre-visualized, but one of my "grab shots" instead. I didn't even realize I had captured the wave in this position until I got home.

When the light was gone and the sun had come up, I packed up and climbed the cliffs to get out. When I got to the top and looked around, the cliffs were full of photographers! Someone was leading a workshop that day and took his group of 12 out to the bluffs over the beach. I'm sure they got great shots, but I think being at water level was better. I'm just glad I didn't pick that day to go skinny dipping. I would have ended up as someone's PJ entry.....

Canon 5DMarkII, EF24-105mm f/4.0L at 70mm, 0.5 seconds at f/11, ISO100

February 2012 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced

While on an Antarctic cruise, the on-board photographer mentioned that photographing the somewhat-rare Snow Petrel on a snowy background was the "challenge" category for the cruise. To get the right exposure and a pleasing composition with the bird and snow or ice was the goal.

We didn't see too many of them, but when we did, I tried my best to capture them. I managed to get this shot of the Petrel in front of an iceberg on a snowy day. I got a good exposure and decent wing placement, but with the horizon level, it was not a dynamic shot. I rotated the image in a few different ways and ended up with the configuration you see here. I think it adds more drama and tension to the shot. It's certainly how I felt when taking it! The Snow Petrel is a beautiful bird and very photogenic with its jet black beak and eyes on a pure white body.

Canon 50D, EF70-200mm f/2.8L at 200mm, 1/1000 second at f/4, ISO200

Snow Petrel and Iceberg
Rick Whitacre

February 2012 First Place Color Print - Basic

US Figure Skating Championships 2012 - San Jose, Ca. - Anna Marie Pearce & Craig Norris (Jr. Pairs)
Julee Cade

My husband surprised me with a week long pass to the HP Pavilion in San Jose, Ca. for the 2012 United States Figure Skating Championships. From Sunday morning Jan. 22, 2012 - Sunday evening Jan. 29, 2012, I was in ice skating heaven as skating was a passion of mine when younger and still is - though now I can no longer manage to hold myself upright on the ice.

Though I had an assigned seat I was able to sit anywhere. I spent most of my time in the front row - watching the skaters but also observing all the professional photographers. Oh how I wish I could be one of with them.

I would arrive at the arena early each morning and drag myself home each evening - downloading the pictures I had taken onto the computer, recharging batteries and falling into bed.....only to be repeated for several more days. It wasn't until the entire week had concluded that I was finally able to look at what I had taken.

There were many that I liked but this particular shot seemed to say - Hmmmm, Julee - I think this is pretty good. **:)** The intensity and lines of the skaters in their execution of the death spiral all came together as a reflection of all the time and training they had put into their routine. These were only the Junior pairs. I had already seen the Novice skaters and had yet to see the Senior skaters. WHAT TALENT. And so, with much trepidation, I decided to enter it along with two other shots from my week at the HP Pavilion. Thank-you to my honey for an amazing week.

February 2012 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic

Historic Queen Victoria Building, Sydney, Australia
Ronnie Rabedeau

When visiting in Sydney, Australia, we were encouraged to check out this 19th Century building, especially its handsome interior, which was magnificent to behold. However, I decided to also capture some of the beauty of the exterior of this landmark building. It was somewhat of a challenge to find a way to eliminate lampposts, signs, and portions of other buildings, etc. The solution was to position ourselves across the street and aim a little higher than we might have done if there hadn't been distractions at a lower level.

The building is remarkable in and out, but surprisingly it was originally intended to provide housing for Sydney's fruit and vegetable market!

Nature Category Definition and Restrictions

Here is the definition for 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 combined.
- 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.
- Any sharpening must appear natural. Borders are not permitted.

Los Gatos Town Council Chambers Exhibit Postcard

Stamina
Fred Vogel

While strolling through a public park in Redondo Beach, California, I spotted a small pond with a clump of large bright yellow flowers near the pond's edge. The sky was overcast, normal in the early spring for Southern California beach communities. The flowers' stamens were well defined in that light. I felt an immediate need to photograph a flower to portray an impressionistic and delicate interpretation of nature.

As I usually carry a nominal amount of equipment when looking for photographic opportunities. I had my Nikon D200 set at ISO 200, a 200mm Micro-Nikkor f: 4.0 lens on a macro-rail, and a Gitzo tripod.

Minimal post processing adjustments were made with Photoshop CS-5. These included minor cropping, increasing the grain structure and limited image saturation. The 16 bit RAW file was saved as a PSD file. Sharpening was applied only to the RAW file.

I titled the image STAMINA meaning "thread of the warp" in Latin. It is the plural of stamen, the pollen producing reproductive organ of a flower.

Key Contacts

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