



# Newsletter

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## Reminders

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### Travel Definition and Restrictions

- 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.

## Coming Club Events

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

### Saturday April 5, 2014

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

### Monday April 7, 2014

5pm Online Print Entry Deadline  
7:15pm Print Entry Deadline  
Competition: Color, Monochrome, Travel  
Judge: Terry Toomey

Refreshments:

Mike Sabes, Uwe Schmalenbach, Ron Rossen

### Monday April 21, 2014

Program: [Doug Cheeseman](#) - Birds and Mammals and Natural History of South Georgia and the Antarctic

Refreshments:

Don Schremp, Roberta Schwartz, Chris Shatara

### May 1 through July 31, 2014

"[Captured, A Photographic Exhibit](#)", Los Gatos Town Council Chambers

### Saturday May 3, 2014

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

### Thursday May 8, 2014

6 to 7:30 pm Artist's Reception for "[Captured, A Photographic Exhibit](#)", Los Gatos Town Council Chambers

## ***Field Trips and PSA Yerba Buena Chapter Program***

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The Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club has several past and upcoming field trips this year. There is a [Field Trip](#) page on the web site with links to details on each trip.

The Yerba Buena Chapter of PSA is having an All-Day Program "Urban Photography with an Architectural Attitude" at the San Leandro Library on Saturday, May 10th. The [agenda and registration form](#) are available on-line.

## ***March Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It***

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The judge was [Bruce Finocchio](#). We asked the makers of the March 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 2013 First Place Nature Digital Projected Image - Basic**

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*Great Egrets (Ardea alba) Exchanging Nesting Material*  
Airdrie Kincaid

While we were in Florida in February 2013 for the NANPA ([North American Nature Photography](#)) Summit, we re-visited the charming city of St. Augustine to check out the Wading Bird Rookery at the [St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park](#), which has been at the same location since the 1920s.

Wild native birds roost and raise their young above the Alligator Swamp at the zoo, where they are apparently safe from tree-climbing predators. A wide wooden walkway over the water allows relatively close views of birds on their nests.

Although the best time to visit is March through June, we found good photo opportunities for great and snowy egrets, little blue and tri-color herons, roseate spoonbills, and wood storks during the two hours we were there in the late afternoon before the park closed.

This image was taken with a Canon EOS 7D, 100-400mm lens at 180 mm for 1/640 sec. at f/8. The original image was cropped slightly in Photoshop.

## March 2013 First Place Nature Print

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*Polar Bear (Ursus maritimus) Hunting A Seal*  
Larry Rosier

In June of 2012 my wife and I took a Lindblad/National Geographic Expedition to the [Svalbard Archipelago](#) where the main attraction is polar bears. This photo was taken from the ship, the National Geographic Explorer. It was taken at 6:42PM. At this time of year the sun does not set.

The camera used was a Nikon D300S with a Nikon 300mm f/4 lens and a 1.4TC. The effective focal length taking into account the 1.5 crop factor on the D300S was 630mm. There was just a little cropping done. The exposure conditions were 1/4,000s, f/6.3, and ISO 400. A monopod was used. The monopod was very useful in this situation.

The printing was done on Epson Hot Pressed Bright paper. The photo was made to show still-hunting, the most common technique polar bears use to capture seals, their main food source.

Note: This image was also selected as the postcard for our club's Los Gatos Town Council Chambers exhibit May 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014.

## March 2013 First Place Nature Digital Projected Image - Advanced

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*Trumpeter Swan (Cygnus buccinator) Drying Wings (series of four)*  
Larry Rosier

This series of photos was taken in January, 2014 during a Winter in Yellowstone workshop led by [Doug Steakley](#). The Trumpeter Swan is the heaviest bird native to North America and is, on average, the largest waterfowl species on earth. The photos were taken around noon. The camera used was a Nikon D700 with a Nikon 200-400mm f/4 lens at 400mm and a 1.4TC. Cropping resulted in a factor of three reduction in pixels. The camera and lens were supported on a tripod with a Really Right Stuff BH-55 ballhead and a Wimberley Sidekick.

The camera was set to take five frames/second and the photos selected were every other photo, so the time between the photos for the sequence shown was approximately 0.4 sec. The exposure conditions were 1/640s, f/7.1, and ISO 400. The sequence was made to show the Trumpeter Swan drying its wings.

## March 2013 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

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*A Rainy Night in Paris*  
Rick Whitacre

Our family got to spend Christmas and New Years in Paris this year. We were walking home from visiting Notre Dame on Christmas Eve. It had been raining on and off so the streets were wet and folks were walking around with umbrellas. We turned to walk down a cobblestone side street and I let Caron get ahead of me to take a shot of her in the wet street scene. That's her on the right.

I knew right away that I would convert it to monochrome. I did a lot of dodging and burning to get it the way I wanted it. Caron liked it so much that I framed it for her for her birthday in January. It hangs in our house.

Canon 1Dx, Canon EF24-105mm f/4L at 73mm, f/6.3, 1/80s, ISO12,800 handheld

## March 2013 First Place Color Print

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On a Saturday night at a dinner party I met a couple who knew one of the players on the Boston University women's softball team, which was to be playing the next day in the 2014 Santa Clara Marriott Invitational Softball Tournament. I have shot some sports and thought this would be a good opportunity to shoot some women's collegiate softball. Also, it just so happened that I graduated from BU. What a coincidence.

Sunday morning dawned cloudy and the forecast was for light rain. When I arrived at the Santa Clara University softball field the game between BU and UC Davis was under way. I found a good place to stand, along the third base line, just by the BU dugout. Davis was at bat, and I had barely set up when it began to rain. I was shooting through a chain-link fence (I could not see any place in the stadium that would allow unobstructed photography - you are either behind a net or a fence). The rain increased a bit and I wanted to get the raindrops on the dark background. Success!

Davis won 4-3. :(

Shot with a Canon 1D Mark IV, Canon 300mm f2.8, 1/1000 sec at f3.2, iso 800.



*Swingin' in the Rain*  
David Kirsch

## March 2013 First Place Monochrome Print

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Steamer lane, by the light house in Santa Cruz, is a very popular surfing spot. It is also a good spot to take pictures of the surfers. The observation location is on the cliffs above the surf and depending on the surf, it is possible to get more of a side view of the waves rather than the head on view that would be seen from a beach.

I have taken pictures of the surfers from this location a number of times, usually just when I happen to be in Santa Cruz and not there specifically to photograph the surfers. I say this, because if it is pictures of surfers you want, it would be a good idea to check the surf report before going. Since I don't do that, most times I have been there the waves are fairly small.

In this case though, just by luck, the waves were much larger. When I first started taking pictures of the surfers, I would always end up at Steamer Lane near sunset. This is a good time for the light, but light quickly gets too low to maintain a fast enough shutter speed to freeze the action of the surfers. This forced me to use slower shutter speeds, which I found could end up creating interesting and dynamic images.

For this image I was in Santa Cruz midday on a sunny day, so there was enough light to use the 1/800th to 1/1200th of second shutter speed needed to freeze the action. Instead, I put my polarizer and 2 stop neutral density filters on my 100-400mm lens. This along with setting the ISO to 50 allowed me to use shutter priority mode set between 1/10 and 1/20 of a second. The aperture ended up between f/16 to f/20.

I took many frames, hand held and panned to try and match the speed of the surfers. As is normally the case with handheld shots with a slow shutter speed, especially with a long telephoto, most of the captures did not turn out well.

The file was processed in Lightroom to convert to Monochrome, add a slight blue tint, crop, vignette, dodge and burn, increase contrast, boost shadows, and reduce highlights.



*Riding the Wave*  
Don Schremp

## March 2013 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced

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*Under the pier*  
Serena Hartoog

The sunset image was taken February 16th this year on a trip with my husband to [Seacliff State Beach](#). I love to do glamour and landscape photography. It may seem like a strange combination, but my friends know the portrait art is different than my engineering background.

I have my personal project to shoot long exposure landscapes this year. Most long exposure shots are related to water and clouds, so I waited for a day with nice weather to go to the beach to shoot some long exposure photos, especially around and under the pier at Seacliff beach.

After the sun started to go down, it was hard to do long exposures so I set up another camera and tripod to do some HDR images of the sunset from under the pier.

The setting of these images were:

Camera: Canon EOS 60D Lens: EFs10-22mm f3.5-4.5.

Manual focus, aperture f/11, three exposures EV+1, EV+0, EV-1 ISO 200.

Post process: Adobe Lightroom 5 for toning and sharpening and Photomatix software for HDR

## March 2013 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic

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This was taken in mid-December, 2013, at the [Natural Bridges State Park](#) in Santa Cruz, CA, at sunset. Earlier in the day, I noticed some interesting clouds in the west and on a hunch, I drove over to Natural Bridges to see what the sunset would become. It turned out to be a perfect evening for sunset shots.

As the afternoon wore on, the clouds were getting better and, coincidentally, the Big Sur fire added a lot of smoke to the clouds giving them a yellowish tint. I set up my tripod in front of the Natural Bridge arch and as the sun started to get lower in the sky, very nice reflections of the bridge appeared.

The shot was taken with a Canon 5D Mark II using a Canon 17-40mm f/4L lens set at 17mm, f/8 with 25 second shutter speed. To slow the shutter, I used a Lee "Big Stopper" filter which smoothed the waves but also caused some blurring of the moving clouds.

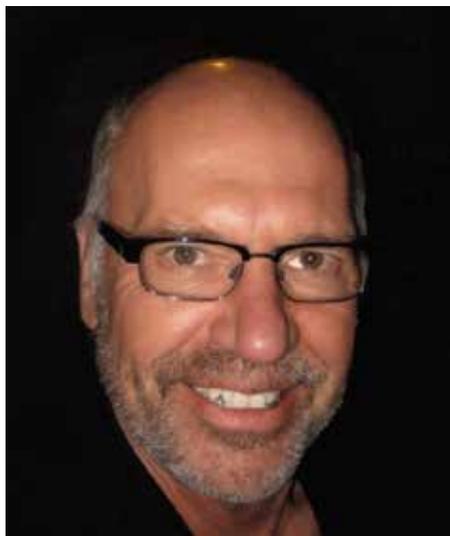
Editing was done primarily in Lightroom and NIK Color Efex Pro 4 with some minor edits in Photoshop.



*Reflecting on the Natural Bridge*  
Rennis Kauffman

## Meet Rennis Kauffman

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I was born and raised in the southern part of Pennsylvania - not far from Gettysburg. I lived there until I was in my early 20's when I moved to Washington, DC, and then Baltimore as I began my career in IT. Something was drawing me west, so in 1978 I relocated to the Santa Clara Valley. I worked for a number of great (and not-so-great) companies over the next 34 years both in the valley as well as in the Santa Cruz area. I started out as an engineer but spent the majority of my career as a Product Manager for software security products.

I was fortunate during my working career to have the opportunity to frequently travel to interesting places in Asia and Europe. For some reason, I had positions that required me to visit Beijing and other locations in China about three or four times a year. I think I've been there about 40 times over the years. Other places in Asia that I traveled to include Japan, Taiwan, Korea, and Hong Kong (before the British left).

I've traveled to the UK about 30 times and consider London to be like a second home. My only regret is that I never really explored the countryside other than what I could see on a train between Manchester or other parts and London. I also had the opportunity to travel to most of the popular Western European countries - France, Germany, Spain, Italy. This, of course, caused me to get the travel bug which I haven't yet shaken.

I was also fortunate that my job enabled me to meet my wife - Bonna. We married in 1988 and have been living in Campbell, Aptos and Los Gatos ever since.

In mid-2012, I decided I had all the high-tech fun and challenges I wanted and decided it was time to move to the next phase of my life - retirement. Honestly, I never looked in my rear view mirror once since then, so I knew I made the right decision. That was the good news.

The bad news was I had no idea of what I was going to do with myself given all the new-found free time.

Several weeks after I stopped working I happened on a discount deal for "Introduction to DSLR" at the [Aperture Academy](#). I had a Canon T2i, but was not really exploiting its potential and frankly was intimidated by it, so I signed up for the 3 or 4 hour session.

It was at this point, everything seemed to change. Something about photography clicked (pardon the pun) in me and I became obsessed.

I've always had a camera. My big brother gave me my first camera - a 35mm film of some unknown variety - and I played around with it but it was all hit or miss. Eventually I upgraded to a better film camera (have always been a Canon guy) and enjoyed shooting but it was more or less snapshot type images with an occasional lucky one.



When the digital cameras became small and cheap, I "downgraded" to point & shoot cameras (several Canon Powershots) and made it a point to pack it in my bag when I was traveling for work. But again, it was all snapshots that were capturing places and people - not really considering composition, lighting, etc.

So, I now had a passion - photography - but didn't really know what I wanted to focus on (again, sorry for the pun). I've dabbled in landscape, wildlife/nature, macro, studio and abstract. They are all interesting and the Bay Area offers opportunities to explore all of these. I joined many Meetup.com photography groups and frequently participate in their events.



Oh yes, I quickly found out that this photography thing can be quite expensive. I upgraded my T2i to a Canon 5D Mark II and bought a variety of lenses (some may say it's an addiction).

It seems that now, as my wife and I plan vacations, I'm looking for places with great photo opportunities and this seems to work well with my wife's interest in active vacations - hiking, biking, touring. For instance in 2013 we visited the National Parks in Utah - Zion, Bryce, Arches and then the Antelope Canyon area.

We celebrated our 25th anniversary in Africa (Tanzania) & Istanbul. This past fall our timing was perfect when we did an east-coast foliage tour from Boston through North Carolina. Even though we both grew up in the Northeast, we were still astounded by the color. Our plans for 2014 (so far) are to visit Death Valley and Glacier National Park. But I'm sure other places will get added, given we are both retired.

In between these trips, I've been taking advantage of the various opportunities around here - the bird migration in the Central Valley, San Francisco's architecture and culture, the Monterey Bay area. I think what surprises me is that these places that I've been to numerous times have taken on a new perspective now that I'm seeing them through the lens.

I'm also taking classes at [West Valley College](http://www.westvalleycollege.edu) to get grounded in photography theory as well as have the opportunity to have my work critiqued.

Finally, I joined the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club this year and am very impressed with the group. Not only are the members welcoming and enthusiastic, the club is well organized. I look forward to participating in the months to come.



## Key Contracts

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