



Newsletter

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Aug 2017

Reminders

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Reminders

On Tuesday June 27, The Los Gatos Saratoga Camera Club held a reception for the Summer Exhibition, which was very well attended by over 100 aficionados of fine photography. If you have not yet been to the exhibit, please do so since this is the first time LGSCC has used this venue and the venue shows our work very well. If you have images in this exhibition please be prepared to take them down on Friday at 10AM on Aug 25th.



Setting Up Images



The Reception



Enjoying the Reception



Gallery Goers

[Travel Definition](#) as per the LG-SCC Website

Coming Club Events

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

Saturday Aug 5, 2017

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

Monday Aug 7, 2017

5pm Online Print Entry Deadline
7:15pm Walk In Print Entry Deadline
Color, Monochrome, Travel
Judge: TBD

Refreshments: James Lamb, JoAn Lambert, Rita Lane-Smith

Meet Alan Levenson



Other than occasional Polaroids, my photographic history began in 1977 while I was in law school and allowed myself a much needed distraction from my studies. I purchased a couple of Olympus OM1s and some lenses and gradually learned a bit about the basics. While working in Monterey I attended some courses at Monterey Peninsula College and learned how to develop my own film and make prints. Later on, while working in San Francisco, and seduced by the concept of greater resolution I acquired a Bronica medium format camera. Marriage and family intervened and photography became limited to family snapshots before gradually fading out altogether. A few years ago, digital photography gradually caught my attention and starting with a cheap Canon pocket camera I gradually worked through a Fujifilm X10, Sony RX100, and Sony RX10 until a proposed trip to Alaska for the Northern Lights dictated a fast lens and camera with good low light capability. The Nikon D750 is probably more than adequate for all my needs but my passion for greater resolution (and the ability to substantially crop bird photos) resulted in the purchase of a used D800.

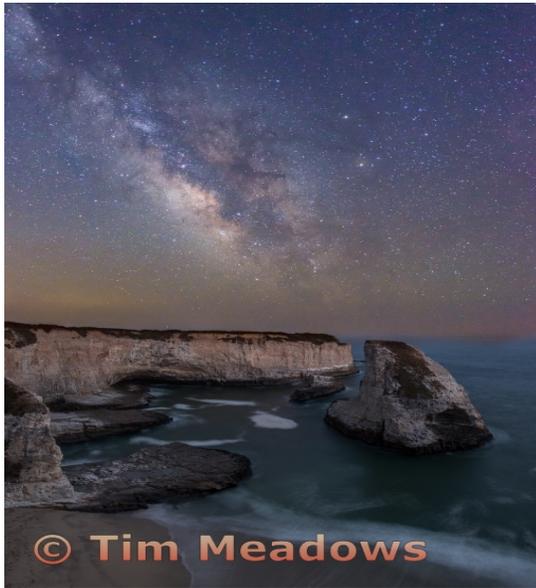
I am a lawyer specializing in International Tax matters but at this point am mostly retired. We travel a lot and include photo tours in many but not all of our trips. This fall we will go on photo tours of Vietnam and Cambodia with an in-between non-photo tour to Myanmar. Trips during the last few years include Iceland during the spring, Iceland in January, Ethiopia, Botswana, Namibia, New Zealand, Guyana, French Guyana, Surinam, Utah, Bhutan, India, Norway Arizona and Utah. I enjoy the international travel but acknowledge the wonderful photo opportunities in the U.S. including our own wonderful California.

When asked why I enjoy photography so much, I explain that the act of carrying a camera with the possibility of finding an interesting image causes me to have a more intense experience and live in the moment(s) more fully. The sight of a potential image creates an adrenalin rush and sense of purpose and focus. Hopefully, I am further rewarded by one or more images which will allow me to remember the day and moment far more fully than I would have without a camera. Of course, I may be punished for my enthusiasm by hours spent sorting through a plethora of bad photos

Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

The judge was Brad Hinkley. 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.

July 2017 First Place Color/Pictorial ProjectedAdvanced



Milky Shark Fin
Tim Meadows

With Rick Whitacre's guidance on precisely where and when to shoot this (and a \$100 parking ticket later), I made this image by capturing the rocks and ocean in one shot and the sky in a later, separate shot and blending them in Photoshop. Technical specs: Nikon D810, 14-24 mm lens at 18 mm. Rocks image: ISO 100, f5, 2.5 seconds; Sky image: ISO 3200, f2.8, 20 seconds. 2.5 seconds for the ocean smooths the wave action somewhat but not too much. 20 seconds for the sky shot minimizes the stars from streaking.

July 2017 First Place Color/PictorialPrint-Advanced

This image was taken in the "target-rich" Valley of Fire State Park outside Las Vegas. It was an early morning (before sunrise) shot. The challenge was one of composition to catch the interesting pattern in the rocks and the dynamic sky, so I chose a very wide angle lens and got up close to the bush on the right side of the image which helps anchor the photo. My slow shutter speed caused the low cloud on the horizon to blur slightly, which is an effect that I like. Technical specs: Nikon D810, 14-24mm f 2.8 lens at 14 mm, f16, ISO 100, 1/5 second exposure. Extensive editing in Lightroom to bring out colors, contrast and highlights.



Nike Swoosh Rock
Tim Meadows

July 2017 First Place Nature Projected-Advanced



The Bald Eagle has caught a fish while the Red Tail has ideas about stealing it.

Mercury Freedom

The 'Bald Eagle with a fish/Red Tailed Hawk tries to steal' photo was a 'being there at the right time' shot. I'd taken my camera on an evening walk with my wife around our end of Lexington Reservoir -- hoping we might see a Bald Eagle! But, we didn't see anything at a shore spot not far from our house. We stopped to talk with a neighbor on the way home -- when my wife saw the Bald Eagle flying at the end of our road! I ran home, stuck the dog in the kitchen, 'went down and grabbed a kayak -- and paddled down to where I'd seen the eagle in the past. Sure enough, there it was circling up. Looking through the camera I could see the fish -- and then all this excitement starting happening with the Red Tail Hawk chase!

A challenge was keeping the camera steady in the kayak which was rolling some in the breeze driven chop. I set the camera to 1/2000th, f5.6 @ 500 mm (750 equivalent on my Nikon D500).

July 2017 First Place Nature Print - Advanced



Brandt's Cormorant Catches a Spawner Trout Planted at Sandy Lake
Robert Fox

It was a relatively slow day at Sandy Wool Lake in Ed Levin Park. I was with my 14 year old granddaughter looking and listening for some nature shots when we heard a splashing noise and saw the cormorant fighting and oversized fish. We both started firing away. Fortunately, it was an overcast day, as the sun was lined up facing us behind the action. My Nikon D7200 was set at 1600 ISO, 5.6 ap, and 1/2000s, using an 80-400mm lens. Also, had other action as a great blue heron flew toward the battle and then swerved away.

July 2017 First Place Monochrome Projected - Advanced



Musings on Daffodils
Larry Shapiro

This image was captured using a lensbaby composer with a focal length of 50mm on a Nikon D800 using the soft focus element. The particular lensbaby I have has several interchangeable front elements: soft focus, single element and double element. Each gives a different effect. I still find it hard to predict which element works best for a particular subject. I realize there is a large slice irony in using a very high-resolution camera (36 meg) to create a soft out of focus image.

The set-up for this image was as follows: a patterned cloth was draped over a backdrop stand; the vase and flower were lighted from an open door allowing sunlight to come through from the left. The lensbaby plane of focus was shifted so that only the center top flowers were in focus.

The exposure was f/4 at 1/8 sec, ISO 100. Post processing was first done in Lightroom. The B&W conversion was made through Nik Silver Efex Pro 2.0 and a brown tone applied. The final step in the processing was to bring the brown toned image into Photoshop and create a new layer using Topaz Simplify's woodcut filter. A layer black mask was created and so that I could paint in the woodcut effect only in the two center flowers and then the effect was reduced to 43%

July 2017 First Place Monochrome Print - Advanced

This image was made at a rock shelf in the sea in my neighborhood in Santa Cruz. I am always fascinated with the movement of the ocean, particularly how the water flows over these rocks after a wave crests. Instead of a wide shot, I chose to focus in on the intimate detail of the water running over the hard texture of the rocks. This required a 400 mm lens with a 1.4 teleconverter. Technical specs: Nikon D810, 80-400 mm f4 lens, 1.4x teleconverter (effective focal length 550mm), f32, 1/5 second. Contrast enhancement in Lightroom, Black and white conversion in Silver Efex Pro



The Sea Giveth
Tim Meadows

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



*Pescadero Cliffs
Rachel Hunter*

I've been practicing, and taking many many bad photos, with neutral density filters for a few months. Luckily, when I arrived at Pescadero State Beach, just as the sun was setting, and saw the cliffs full of flowers, I finally got the settings right. This was shot, right after sunset, with my Canon 50D, with an eight-stop ND filter. I did a thirty second exposure at F/25, ISO 100. I got in several shots, but this one had the two cars in just the right locations to make the two light streaks. In Lightroom, I did not touch the sky, ocean and cliffs much. I worked on the foreground a bit to try to pull up the last bit of light glowing on the tops of the flowers. And I pulled up the headlight streaks to make them pop. In Photoshop, I did a border patrol and eliminated some bright flowers half on/half off the photo.

July 2017 First Place Nature Projected-Basic



**Little Bee Eater
Alan Levenson**

My photo of a "Little Bee Eater" was taken in April of 2017 in the Okavango Delta of Botswana. When I first captured it or something similar I thought it, as did the Judge, a very unusual catch. As I learned about this bird's behavior I could frequently take similar photos. They are very colorful so that their prey, insects, will mistake them for flowers. Unlike many birds, they are not shy and one can get very close. They perch in the open fairly close to the ground so they have access to prey. Here is the good part. Once they have chosen a perch they may often return to that exact perch whether or not they have captured a meal. From a photographer's standpoint this means that once you have found the bird and its perch, you can focus on the perch itself and wait for it to return. This affords opportunities to catch them in flight and with various meals.

Key Contacts

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