

# Bits & Pixels

November 2015

Volume I, Number 1



## What is Bits & Pixels?

The purpose of PTCC's new monthly newsletter, *Bits & Pixels*, is to refine the intermittent Bits & Pixels e-mail blasts of the past into a concise, regularly issued, complete and useful package of important Club news along with a range of information of interest to our members, potential members and friends. The plan is to publish monthly on or about the 20th of each month. It is intended to compliment not compete with our website, a comprehensive presentation of what the Club is all about, or our Facebook page, a quick moving social networking and sharing platform with heavy graphic emphasis showcasing predominantly our submitted images and member posts.



## A Note From Ken...

I've really enjoyed putting out those Bits & Pixels e-mails, and I'm glad the name stuck. I'm equally glad that Carmay has offered her considerable talents to create and edit this newsletter that proudly bears the Bits & Pixels handle. The goal is not to compete with our outstanding website and vital Facebook presence, but rather enhance the flow of information about the Club and the photographic life here on the Peninsula. Don't worry, I'll still be bugging you with e-mails from time to time with items that could be considered "Breaking News" or that otherwise generate a measure of urgency. I'm certain that the new Bits & Pixels Newsletter will become a comfortable part of PTCC and I thank Carmay for taking it on.

~ Take your lens cap off.

*Ken Jones*

## The Sharon Blaziek Extra Mile Award

The *Sharon Blaziek Extra Mile Award* was established to honor the memory of long time PTCC member, **Sharon Blaziek**, who passed away this September. Sharon's nearly thirty years of service and dedication to PTCC in a variety of roles including President, Vice President, Secretary and Nature competition chair represent going the extra mile and beyond. The award recognizes a current member whose dedication to Padre Trails Camera Club has gone the "extra mile" in terms of exceptional personal time, effort and dedication. The merit of the award is in the service, independent of photographic accomplishments.

The first recipient of the *Sharon Blaziek Award* is **John Avera**, seen here receiving the award from president **Ken Jones** during our Year-End celebration. John's role in helping to bring the Club successfully through the "Digital Divide" that threatened its very existence and his single-handedly keeping our competition process alive and moving forward through a period of unprecedented change and growth, without question demonstrate his willingness to go the extra mile for PTCC.



*John Avera, left, accepts the first Sharon Blaziek Extra Mile Award from Ken Jones at PTCC's Year-End Awards Ceremony.*

*~ Photo by Chris Axe.*

## Our 2014-2015 Image-of-the-Year and Year-End Awards Ceremony

Over fifty members, guests and friends of PTCC gathered for the Club's 2014-15 Year-End potluck and awards ceremony on Saturday evening, November 7, 2015. The festivities were held at The Oaks Condominiums Recreation Center in Del Rey Oaks and the food, friends and images were over the top this year. Special thanks go out to **Kathleen Wiberg** for arranging and coordinating the venue details, to **Carol Fuessenich, Chris Johnson, Jeff Hobbs** and **Shelley Nemeth** for brilliantly carrying off the enormous task of bringing it all together, setting things up and decorating the room and tables beautifully and to **Jared Ikeda** and **John Avera** for assembling, organizing and presenting the juried images and the comments and selections of our judge this year, **Richard Cannon**. This year's winners in all groups and categories can be seen at our website: [www.padretrailscc.org](http://www.padretrailscc.org).

Congratulations to all the members whose images achieved this year-end recognition. Throughout the course of the year, success in our monthly judgments generates yearly competition points to the winners. Winners receive 4 points for a 1st place, 3 points for 2nd, 2 points for 3rd and 1 point for HM. For the 2014-15 Club year, the High-Point winners were:

- Group A: **Doug Steakley** with 39 points.
- Group AA: **Margret Cordts** with 49 points. (Stunning!)
- Group AAA: **Dominique Gallet** with 19 points.



## New Club Officers

At our Year-End celebration, the Club welcomed its new officers: **John Drum** as Vice President and **Shelley Nemeth** as Treasurer. In addition to their role as Club officers, John also is our **Nature Competition Chair** and Shelley is our **Membership Chair**.

Two outgoing Club Officers, Treasurer **Peter Monteforte** and Vice President **John Avera**, were recognized for their service as officers and given gift certificates for **Coastal Giclee** printing in Carmel.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!**

## What's Happening?

On the frontier, native Americans dispatched stealthy scouts into the mountains to find out what those pesky settlers were up to. During war times, opposing forces sent moles into the enemy's camp to learn of their plans. Fortunately for us, we don't have to resort to such extreme measures to find out what's happening in the world of photography and photographic events here on the Monterey Peninsula. We have the **Monterey Peninsula Photo Events Blog**. If it's happening, it's in there. Check it out at: <http://mpenphotoevents.blogspot.com/>.



## Miscellany

Congratulations to members **Dominique Gallet**, who has moved up to the **AA Goup**, and to **Margret Cordts** and **Ken Jones** who are now in the **A Group!**

**Skills Night** presentations shown at our meetings are now available to PTCC members 24/7 by visiting the **Member Resources** section of our website. Presentations by **Chris Axe** and **Jeff Hobbs** are there now and others will be added as they become available. It's hard to take everything in during one meeting's show and discussion. Now you can spend all the time you need to understand the particular technique or process being explained.

The Halloween is the Theme "**Call to Capture**" idea developed by **Carol Silveira** and **Carol Fuessenich** really caught on. Over 70 images were submitted for the sublimely frightful presentation at our November 18th meeting. Based on this success, there will be more "**Calls to Capture**" announcements on other themes following this model in the future. Answering these calls is a fun way to let your photographic creativity run wild.

The PTCC Board, consisting of the Club's elected officers and appointed activity chairs, meets quarterly. Dates set for the remainder of our 2015-16 Club Year are: **January 16th, April 16th, July 16th and October 15th**. Generally, meetings are held at Ken's home in Pacific Grove; any venue change will be announced. Our Board meetings are open to all PTCC members. Did you know that the minutes of all Club regular and Board meetings are available at the **Member Resources** section of our website?

## Welcome to Our Newest Members

PTCC is happy to welcome the following photographers who have added their vision and creativity to the mix. We're glad they chose to become part of Padre Trails Camera Club.

- **Linda Abbey** of Pacific Grove, an artist specializing in wildlife and Nature photography.
- **Bruce Detlefsen** of Pacific Grove, friend of *Shelley Nemeth*. PJ, Travel and Human Interest.
- **Rosie Gomez** of Watsonville who enjoys photographing people, children, pets and nature
- **Sean Jin** of Monterey, friend of *Bill Shewchuk*. Enjoys photographing a wide range of subjects.
- **Demie Williams** of Pebble Beach.
- **Leni Hazlett** of Pebble Beach, most interested in pictorial, nature, artistic/creative and alternative.



## November Meeting Roundup

At our *November 4th* meeting, *Jeff Hobbs* gave an outstanding presentation about how he approaches night photography. He showed us several examples of how the right location, camera settings and patience can result in stunning images of our heavens and of our world after dark. He threw in some exciting examples of what happens when you ignite steel wool in a pancake whisk and swing it around over your head. A Skills night to remember!

We also saw prints from several members who entered them in the Monterey and Santa Cruz County Fairs this year. Showing their fine work were *Shelley Nemeth*, *Carol Fuessenich*, *Chris Johnson*, *John Drum*, *Carol Silveira* and *Sylvia* and *Tom Gardner*. Thanks for sharing. Excellent!

Our *November 18th* meeting was a treat in several respects. It began with *Carol Fuessenich's* short presentation of fanciful 3-D pumpkin carvings by *Ray Villafane*. This set the stage for *Carol Silveira's* showing of the images sent in by members for the "Halloween is the Theme" call. It's scary how good they were. *John Drum* presented the returns of our Nature #1 competition and we had the pleasure of real-time comments by our judge, *Chuck Bancroft*. The winning images have been posted to our website. The last treat came on a small plate as we all celebrated *Jeff Hobbs'* birthday with a delicious cake provided by *Carol Fuessenich*. A feast for all the senses.

## Looking Ahead

On **Sunday, January 17th**, we'll head around the Bay to Capitola for our **2016 Annual Competitive Field Trip**. Categories are being developed now and will be published, along with the boundaries, guidelines, and lunch spot for the trip. Capitola is a reprise of a very fun location last visited in March of 2006. Keep your eye out for details.

In **March, 2016**, on a date yet to be determined, PTCC will have a **Group Shoot** to Elkhorn Slough. The Club took on the challenges of this exciting venue in February, 2008 and had a fabulous time. We're planning to organize a flat-bottom boat excursion as we did then as an option. Group Shoots generally don't have categories and let the photographers capture the site any way they like. We'll collect each participant's "Top-10" images and have a show, probably in April. You can see how our 2008 outing went at our website, click on "In the Field."



*Elkhorn Slough Otters - Photo by Ken Jones*



## Next Month

At our **December 2nd** meeting, for what has become an annual event, PTCC will hold its Holiday print donation and raffle, **Prints for the Food Bank**. Raffle tickets will be sold at the meeting and then drawings award winners their choice of donated prints. This effort has been fun and very successful the past two years. Last year we raised \$500 for the Food Bank. **December 2nd** is also an **Open Projector** evening.

On **December 16th**, we'll have a program of **Black and White** photography by Carmel photographer, **C. Jo Gough**. Timely, as our December submission is **Black & White**, due to the mailboxes by midnight, **December 27th**. Please be sure to check our website to verify your competition group.

## You know you're a photographer if...

Excerpted from: <http://improvephotography.com/1949/you-might-be-a-photographer-if-hilarious/>

- You have nightmares of people using the "P mode."
- (You have) 30,000 family photos neatly categorized in Lightroom. Zero photos of you.
- When at a car dealership, you translate the price of a car in your head to "Six 5D Mark II's."
- You are frequently greeted with "What are you taking a picture of?!?" instead of "hello."
- You'd rather buy the shirt that more closely resembles 18% gray.
- Your carry-on is heavier than your checked bags.
- You describe disgusting old dilapidated barns as "beautiful."  
(Lori Anderson)
- The number of lenses is greater than the pairs of shoes you own.  
(Carsten Deutschmann)



## From the Editor

When I offered to help with a newsletter I didn't know Ken would be so happy! I'm excited about the possibilities this new endeavor provides and the opportunity to work with the Board and other PTCC members in the creation of something we can all use and be proud of. A lot of the information we receive today comes to us at lightning speed. Important e-mail communications often fly by us in a flood and are lost in the e-dust. I hope the new *Bits & Pixels* monthly newsletter will provide a fun and dependable encapsulation of important Club news and information, and will serve as a platform for a variety of other useful tidbits. I'm looking forward to making a positive and worthwhile contribution to PTCC. Please contact me at: [ck-public@comcast.net](mailto:ck-public@comcast.net) to contribute. Happy thanksgiving!

*Carmay Knowles, Editor*

## Tips & Tricks

*Margret Cordts* shared this from a workshop she attended some time ago. Photographer **Rob Sheppard** has a beautiful website: <http://www.joyofnatureandphotography.com>. He is a Fellow with the North American Nature Photography Association and his education was both as a photographer and a naturalist specializing in ecology and botany.

Here are *Rob's 10 Tips for Wow Images*:

1. Distinctive use of **light**
2. Uncommon and effective use of **contrast**
3. Striking use of **color**
4. Unique angle to **subject**
5. Not the usual **lens choice**
6. Finding unusual **perspective**
7. Using atypical **depth of field**
8. Using atypical **shutter speeds**
9. Unexpected use of **flash**
10. Striking, uncommon **timing**

The fine print:

- A. Impact gains attention for photos
- B. Technique must show new, fresh, unique view of subject
- C. High impact is not always "liked"
- D. Not every photo will have, or should have, high impact
- E. Occasional images with high impact in a large group will lift the whole group and gain attention for the whole group and gain attention for it even though not all images have high impact.

## Are You Hanging Out Around Town?

If your photography is being exhibited anywhere in Monterey or the surrounding counties, please let the editor know about it. It's often difficult to keep up with who's hanging where, so help us out by telling us about your exhibition successes so others can learn of it. Send an e-mail to *Carmay* ([ck-public@comcast.net](mailto:ck-public@comcast.net)) with the details and your show will show up on these pages.