

Bits & Pixels

May 2016

Volume I, Number 6

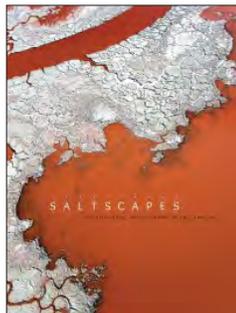


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April Was Exciting!

Introduced to the Club by PTCC member, **Brooks Leffler**, himself a talented Kite Aerial photographer, our guest on **April 6th** was renowned Kite Aerial photographer, **Cris Benton**, who presented an amazing glimpse into the art and craft of Kite Aerial Photography (KAP). When the obvious question, "Why not a drone?" came up, Benton's answer was, once heard, equally as obvious. To paraphrase: With a drone, your attention is weighted heavily toward flying the drone. With a kite, it just hangs there and you can concentrate on the photography. **Mr. Benton**, a retired Professor of Architecture at Berkeley, has spent a decade studying and photographing the salt ponds in the South Bay area. His recently published book, **Saltscapes**, is packed with his photographs and narrative insights into this fascinating and little understood area. His slide show and prints were fabulous! If you missed it or want to see more, here are several links. Mr. Benton's work is certainly worth a second look.



- kap.ced.berkeley.edu/
- <https://heydaybooks.com/book/saltscapes>
- www.berkeleyside.com/.../cris-benton
- <https://cargillsaltinperspective.com/saltscapes-the-kite-aerial-photography-of-cris-benton-2/>

On **April 20th** members and guests were treated to a double header of outstanding images. Leading off was a look back to our **March 12th Group Shoot** at Moss Landing and Elkhorn Slough with a short video created by one of our newer members, **Doug Rothnie**, followed by a presentation of member images from the day assembled and staged by **Brooks Leffler**. It was great fun reliving the day through images. Here's a nice tidy link to the beautiful **Moss Landing / Elkhorn Slough 2016** slide show that Brooks put together: <http://tinyurl.com/hlwf98n>.

Our Photojournalism returns ended the evening with **Acting Mixed Program Chair, John Drum**, presenting the images and sharing the written comments of our judge, noted photojournalist **Richard Green**. Most submitted images can be viewed at our Facebook page and the winners are displayed on our Website, click on **Image Gallery**. Here are two of the fine images from Group A that didn't take a place award.



Last of the Golden Gate Bridge toll-takers. March 2013 - Chris Johnson

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20 Foot Storm Waves Roll into Carmel - Jeff Hobbs



Election of Officers

May is the month in which the Club elects its Officers for the following Club year beginning on **October 1st**. A nominating committee will be formed to present the membership with candidates for the positions of *President, Vice President, Secretary* and *Treasurer*. The current *Activity Chairs*, which are appointed by the president, will remain in those roles until replaced as needed. The term of office for our elected officers is from **October 1st** through **September 30th**. The overlap is intended to provide time for the new officers to come up to speed. The process is spelled out in the Club Bylaws which are available from our Website's **Home Page**. The slate of **2016-17** officers will be presented to the membership at our **May 4th** meeting and voting will occur at our **May 18th** meeting. The new officers will be installed officially at our *End of Year* party on **November 5th, 2016**.

We now have a full slate which will be presented at the first May meeting along with a call for additional nominations. If there are any, they're added to the list. Then at the second May meeting, we'll call once more for additional names and then vote. The *Activity Chairs* will remain unchanged.

President - Ken Jones
Vice President - John Drum
Secretary - Shelley Nemeth
Treasurer - Cath Tandler-Valencia



My Two Bits ... Time Travel

Last month we announced a new "**Call for Entries**" that *Carol Silveira* has conceived for us: Baby Pictures. Our own baby pictures, as in pictures of us as babies or toddlers. (No Daguerreotypes accepted) The cut-off for sending Carol your baby-adult pictures is **Wednesday, May 18th**. Since that announcement, another wrinkle has been added. Carol would like you also to send her a current picture of yourself. The concept is to project the baby picture and have the group try to identify who it is. Then, project the current photo to see who got it right. This is a cute idea (all babies are cute, right?) and I hope many of us will participate. Truly the more the merrier.

~ Take your lens cap off.

Ken Jones



A Call To Artists

It's time for the **2017 Fine Art Calendar - Juried Competition "Celebrating Monterey County."** Each year, the Arts Council produces a fine art calendar that captures the stunning beauty and extraordinary diversity of life in Monterey County. These beautiful calendars are sold at a wide variety of outlets throughout the county. All proceeds from the entry fees and calendar sales benefit the *Professional Artists in the Schools* program - providing arts education, arts-integrated curriculum and special arts and literacy workshops for thousands of students. Artwork should depict life, culture and the natural beauty of Monterey County's landscape. Artwork should be in a horizontal orientation. The calendar will be a large format (11 x 17) again this year. Please note that two scenes each from North County, Salinas Valley/South County, Seaside/Marina, Monterey Peninsula, Salinas and Big Sur will be selected.

Saturday, May 7, 2016 is the submissions deadline, entries must be postmarked or hand delivered by then! Judges are *Chris Winfield, Mary Hill, and Juan-Carlos Gonzalez*. For more information visit the Arts Council for Monterey County website at: arts4mc.org.

Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7-9 PM
 Hilltop Center, 871 Jessie St., Monterey
 831-646-3975

2015-2016 Officers:

President - Ken Jones
Vice President - John Drum
Secretary - Janet Beaty
Treasurer - Shelley Nemeth

Activity Chairs:

Awards & Hospitality - *Chris Johnson*
 Competitions - *John Drum & Joni Zabala*
 Judges - *Silke Laetz*
 Membership - *Shelley Nemeth*
 Newsletter - *Carmay Knowles*
 Points Accounting - *Carol Fuessenich*
 Programs - *Bill Shewchuk*
 Submission Review - *Brooks Leffler*
 & *Jared Ikeda*



Member Club since 1948

In the Spotlight

Mary Ann Avera was born in Long Beach, California and lived in Southern California until 1994. She went to St. Anthony Girls High School and what was Long Beach State, now CSULB, where she majored in English. After graduating in 1973, she married John Avera, who after getting out of the Navy, was also going to Long Beach State. John then went to UCLA Dental School and worked part time. So Mary Ann worked full time, first in a pharmacy, then in a bank, then at Aetna Life and Casualty as a claims adjuster – a job she doesn't recommend.

Their first child, Thomas, was born in 1979, Mary Ann quit working when Tom was 10 months old. Their daughter, Erin, was born in 1984.

The Avera's traveled to Monterey to visit Mary Ann's sister who was in dental practice in Monterey. John and Mary Ann found the area so gorgeous that they decided it wasn't fair that her sister was the only family member to call the Peninsula home. In 1994, when a periodontal practice became available in Aptos, the Avera's jumped at the chance. They bought the practice and moved north, bringing Mary Anne's mother with them. Since then Mary Ann's second sister has also relocated here, completing the family's migration to paradise.

When asked how she got into photography, Mary Ann explained that John had been a photographer when he was in the Navy and he wanted to get back into it, so for John's birthday back in about 2003, Mary Ann gave him a Local Photo Tour Day with Doug Steakley. It was Doug who suggested that John join PTCC, but John wanted Mary Ann to join too, so it was something that they could do together. She balked at first, but joined, although she didn't take or submit pictures for a few months. Eventually she warmed up to it, obviously, since she's in the A Group and we've



Mary Ann by John Avera

all seen her beautiful images! Mary Ann says she basically learned photography (on film) from John, from reading a few books, but mostly from PTCC. She likes taking photos of a variety of subjects, particularly nature and landscape. PJ is her least favorite, but she says that's just because she's not good at it.

John had volunteered for Judge Acquisition and he recruited Mary Ann to help. Later she was in charge of PTCC Hospitality for seven years. Mary Ann observed that when she and John first joined PTCC the meetings and competitions felt a little more formal, but they've changed over the years to be a little looser, and perhaps friendlier, although Mary Ann finds the judging to be a bit more subjective and less by the book than it used to be. Mary Ann shares two of her favorite photos, below.



Eschscholzia californica calyx

In addition to photography, Mary Ann likes to go to the gym where she does aerobic exercises and takes classes. She also does some gardening, but she and John have a grandson, Axel, who is almost 2 years old and lives in Montara, which is between Half Moon Bay and Pacifica. Mary Ann now spends a lot of time driving up Highway 1 to baby-sit Axel, but she loves the beautiful drive and the time with her grandson. As all grandmothers know, the time when kids are little is precious and passes so very quickly.



Sea Swings at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk

Tips and Tricks Creative Photography

The PTCC definition of *Creative* can be found on our website by clicking on *Competitions* on the left side of the **Home Page**. *“Creative photography is producing an image through the use of imaginative skill or originality of thought including the altering of reality. From a judging standpoint, no image should be eliminated from competition simply because it looks realistic, provided the image demonstrates originality of concept. Creative images may include modifications in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera, as well as unusual points of view, imaginative use of subject matter or lighting, or any other presentation that begins with the maker’s photograph or a collection of photographs.”*

It can be really helpful, and inspiring, to review the winning images of past competitions. Go to *Image Gallery* on the right side of the PTCC website **Home Page**, then at the bottom of the page you can visit previous year’s galleries and find the different competition categories.



The PSA definition of *Creative* is “Altered Reality.” The image must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of three. High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are not considered “altered reality.” The original image must be made by entrant on photographic emulsion or captured digitally. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Original images must be altered by the maker; artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated if the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. The image’s core content must be identifiable. Non-creative images are not eligible for this competition. Any subject matter is acceptable as long as the Altered Reality guidelines are apparent.



Shots and Spots

From **Shelley Nemeth**: Easy access for locals, the Carmelite Monastery, just south of Carmel and north of Pt. Lobos, is accessible to the public. Their driveway is 0.7 miles south of Ribera Road, just before San Jose Creek Canyon Rd. Take a left off Hwy. 1 and follow the driveway up to a beautiful, historic church with many photo ops.



Carmelite Monastery photos by Shelley Nemeth

“Carmelite Monastery, which is home to the order of nuns referred to as Sisters by the Sea, is one of the first Carmelite monasteries on the western coast of the United States. Built in 1931, the Monastery sits on a hillside just off Highway One across from Point Lobos and south of Carmel-by-the-Sea. The gardens surrounding the monastery are meticulously maintained by the Carmelite nuns and are full of colorful flowers, fragrant lemon trees, and benches for anyone who wants to sit, relax, and meditate. We invite you to walk the gardens and come view the towering ceilings and soft filtering sunlight of the church. Watch a lovely video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIPsITvn9N8>” (Text from the Monastery Video)



May - June Look Ahead

Last month we touched on our May calendar. The month leads off on **May 4th** with a **Skills Night** from **Dominique Gallet** who will share her simple but effective approach to her photography. You've all seen Dominique's stunning bird images, particularly her captures of the very hard to photograph, quick and jumpy hummers. We'll learn how she created an environment that drew in migratory birds and provided a welcoming platform to capture their beauty.

At our **May 18th** meeting we'll hold the election of officers for the 2016-17 Club Year (the format and present slate of candidates are shown on Page 2) and we'll see our **Nature #2 Returns**. It should be interesting to see how the new category of "Backyard" Nature is interpreted.

Your Creative submissions are due to the mailboxes by midnight, **Sunday, May 29th**. Take a look at the Club and PSA definitions outlined in our **Tips and Tricks** section on Page 4.

In June we'll be half way through 2016... Unbelievable! We'll have an **Open Projector** night on **June 1st** and also see the **Time Travel** baby pics show that **Carol Silveira** is putting together. We'll expand on June's activities next month, but for now, check the **Calendar** page of our Website for what's happening in June.



Check it Out!

On **Monday, May 16, 2016 at 6:30 PM** photographer **Ted Orland** will give a talk at **Carmel Visual Arts: 3728 The Barnyard** (above Carmel Valley Roasting Co.) Ted worked closely with **Ansel Adams** and has been a photographer for nearly forty years. The **Ted Talk** is \$25.00, but PTCC members can obtain a \$5 coupon from **Gin**.

The **10th Annual Seaside Art Tour** is on **Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 10 AM to 5 PM**. This year there are 9 locations and PTCC member **Jim Lambert** is one of the participants. Jim's studio is at 2098 Paralta Avenue, Seaside, CA 93955; he's hoping we'll visit. Each tour location will be having a free drawing for one piece of their work. Contact: **Sandra Gray**, Chairperson, Seaside Artists Association for more info: (831)402-2274 or sandrag394@gmail.com or Google: Seaside Art Tour 2016 for a map of this year's tour locations.



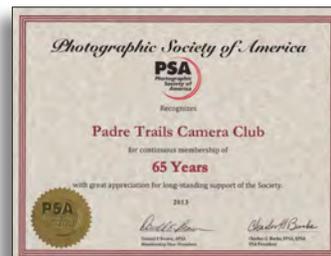
What's So Funny?

We have a Red-Eye removal tool, wonder why no one has invented the "Catch Light" slider.



Padre Trails: a Member Club

PTCC has been a member of the **PSA**, Photographic Society of America, since 1948 and we recently received our 65 year certificate.



Every month the Club's copy of the **PSA Journal**, is brought to the meetings and made available for any member to borrow, read and return. But there's so much more to

PSA than the Journal. PTCC members are encouraged to consider individual membership in the PSA. It is a worldwide organization for anyone with an interest in photography. There are many benefits to membership besides the Journal, including free online photo courses, study groups, image evaluation services, online photo galleries, workshops and outings. Standard adult membership with a printed **PSA Journal** is \$60 a year; digital membership is \$45. For more info on the PSA, membership, dues and rates, please visit the PSA website: www.psa-photo.org.



Editor's Corner

This is our sixth issue of **Bits & Pixels** and I am grateful to those of you who have made contributions of photos and/or info to our fledgling publication. I'm also delighted with the positive feedback we've received. Thank you!

As stated in our inaugural issue of **November 2015**, the **Bits & Pixels** newsletter is intended to **compliment** our website, not compete with it. Our website: padretrailsccl.org has all the image winners from our competitions, our annual calendar, history, organization, member resources, and so much more, including links to other info and sites. Please be sure to check it out. We want **Bits & Pixels** to augment our website and our bi-monthly club meetings and be a platform to share more of who we are and what wonderful images we shoot. If you have a photo you'd like to share that didn't place in a competition or one that you didn't enter but you're proud of, please send it to me at: info@padretrailsccl.org or click on "**Letters to the Editor**" at the bottom of the **Bits & Pixels** Newsletter page on our website. Happy shooting!

Carmay Knowles, Editor