

# Bits & Pixels

October 2016

Volume 2, Number 1



P.O. Box 51154, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

www.padretrailsc.org

## Year End Party - November 5<sup>th</sup>

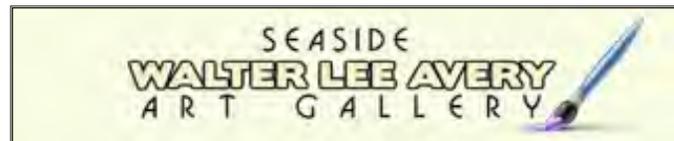
**O**n Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, members and guests will celebrate the completion of our 2015-16 Club year at our annual party. This year, we're back at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula off Carmel Valley Road near what used to be the Rancho Canada Golf Club. The evening will include a pot luck supper followed by the installation of our new Club officers and a review of all the winning images from last year. An Image-of-the-Year will be awarded in each category within each competition group. It's always fun to look back at the great images created by our members throughout the year. Our IOY judge this time is *Richard Murai*. Website: (<http://www.richardmurai.com/the-photographer>).

Last year, through the generosity of member *Kathleen Wiberg*, we celebrated at *The Oaks Condominiums*. *Chris Axe* captured this moment, queuing up for the potluck feast.



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## Avery Gallery Show Image Review

**T**o make sure the theme of the exhibit has been interpreted in more or less the same way by participants before getting too far into the printing/framing phase of the exhibit, we'll be reviewing the images planned for the show. Participants, sometime within the next 30 days (before the end of October), please send in a jpeg of the image(s) you're planning to have in the *Avery Gallery Show*.

Send your jpegs to *John Drum* via e-mail with the subject line: AVERY SHOW JPEGs. Format isn't important, so you can go with 72 ppi and something in the neighborhood of 700 or 800 on the long side will be adequate.

And it gets better! We received some good news from *Sandra Gray*, curator of the *Avery Gallery*. The gallery is opening up additional wall space, which means more of our images can



Walter Lee Avery Art Gallery

be shown. If you've listed a second or alternate image, you can probably assume it will be in the show, so send in jpegs for both your primary and alternate print idea. If you're not sure you've signed up, or would like to add your name to the list, see the **Member Resources/Special Events** section of our website. To add your name, please notify *John Drum* directly as soon as you can.



## Annual Renewal Reminder

**I**f you haven't already done so, please renew your **PTCC** membership for the 2016-17 (2017) Club Year now. Bring your \$30 check, payable to **Padre Trails Camera Club**, to the next meeting or mail it to: Padre Trails Camera Club, P.O. Box 51154, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Thanks!



## My Two Bits ... Happy New Year!

October marks the beginning of a new Club Year. In addition to the monthly competition rotation described on the calendar page of our website and in **Member Resources**, I'd like to hit some of the high points of what's in store for everyone this year.

In the first quarter, we'll have our **Year-End party on November 5<sup>th</sup>**. Our new Club officers will be installed formally and we'll celebrate our members' exceptional achievements last year through our annual **Image-of-the-Year** award. All images that placed (1<sup>st</sup> through HM) in any of the 2015-16 competitions will be reviewed once more, this time by renowned Bay area photographer, **Richard Murai**. Image of the year awards will be given to those Richard selects, in each competition category and within each competition level. The high-point winners within each group also will be honored. You can learn more about Richard at his website: <http://www.richardmurai.com/the-photographer>.

Again, in the first quarter at our **December 7<sup>th</sup>** meeting, we'll have what's become an annual philanthropic event for **PTCC**, a print donation and raffle to raise a Holiday contribution to the **Monterey County Food Bank**. The generosity of our members has made this effort a significant help to the good work the food bank does at Holiday time and all year long.

Bridging the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters will be two six-week print exhibitions at **Mundos Cafe**, at 170 Webster, Monterey. The first will run from **December 4<sup>th</sup>** through **January 14<sup>th</sup>** and the second from **January 15<sup>th</sup>** through **February 25<sup>th</sup>**. This is an open subject print exhibition, gallery framed with Plexiglas, and will be valuable exhibit experience for our members. Many thanks to **Chester Ng** and the **ImageMakers** for giving **PTCC** this wonderful opportunity.

In the second quarter, we'll hit the streets again for our annual competitive field trip. Exactly which streets those might be has yet to be determined at press time, but wherever we go I know it will be a good day. In **February**, our **Pictorial #2** competition is a directed one, this time the directed element is "**circles**." The circle is a powerful design element and they're all around us. Heck, even your lens cap is a circle. This one should be fun! In March, we'll deliver the final list of prints and artist information for our May/June exhibition in Seaside.

We'll be planning at least one **Group Shoot** to be held in **March**, at this time also to an undetermined location. But plans are being made, so look forward

to that. I'm hoping we can squeeze in at least one more **Group Shoot** in this time frame or in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

The big event happening in the third quarter is the **May 1<sup>st</sup>** opening of **Central Coast Style: The Constructed Environment** at the **Avery Gallery, Seaside!** Wow! **PTCC** will be hosting an artists' reception on **May 8<sup>th</sup>** at the gallery.

To add an extra challenge to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter competition rounds, in **June**, our **Pictorial #3** competition is calling for all images to be taken with a cell phone. If you don't have a cell phone—well, it's possible these days, I guess—I'm sure you can borrow a friend's for this one. The status of phone-captured images has risen dramatically over the last year or so and many new applications have been developed to enable your phone to capture and create some stunning images. I'm hoping everyone will participate.

The fourth quarter will wrap up the year with our last **Nature** competition, which will be again judged by **David Rosen**; and our traditional year-end competition in **Travel**.

Happy New Year everybody.

~ Take your lens cap off.

*Ken Jones*

## Padre Trails Camera Club

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM

Hilltop Center, 871 Jessie St., Monterey  
831-646-3975

[www.padretrailsc.org](http://www.padretrailsc.org)

2016-2017 Officers:

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

Activity Chairs:

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



Member Club  
since 1948



## In the Spotlight - Silke Laetz

by Carmay Knowles

**S**ilke Laetz is a transplant from the Hansestadt of Bremen, Germany, where she was born and spent her formative years. "In high school, I focused on geography and English and dreamt about travel. I did a three-year apprenticeship at a five-star hotel in the Black Forest. I chose a career in the hospitality industry that matched my desire to live and work anywhere in the world." Silke moved to the U.S. in 1988. She had married a U.S. Marine from Michigan and they moved around a lot. Eventually they parted ways and Silke followed her career in international hospitality management. In 1994 she graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Hawai'i with a B.S. in Travel Industry Management. Silke's adventures have taken her from Baden-Baden, Germany to Baltimore, Maryland and Washington D.C., and from Honolulu to Monterey, where she has lived since 2003, because she was "captivated by the unique charm of the Monterey Peninsula."

Along the way Silke has worked for Sheraton and Hyatt Regency hotels, among others. "While working at the Carmel Highlands Inn, I discovered the amazing beauty of master photographers **Helmut Horn, Ansel Adams, and Bob Kolbrener**. Their work, featured in revolving exhibitions in the historic fireside lobby, served as a catalyst that inspired me to do my own creative photographic work. Without a doubt, photography changed my life in many ways. As a photographer, you walk with your eyes. Transcending the object, you start seeing compositions, gestures, moods, and feelings. You long to capture them with your art tools. You look at your photographic image and realize: No, that's not it. There was more. Now you've got a new challenge: how do you make the invisible visible? How do you make feelings or meaning visible? And suddenly, you become a designer."

Silke had been in the hospitality industry for more than twenty-five years when she felt she needed a



Silke Laetz at Death Valley



Wine and Cheese



Father Crowley Point, Death Valley



Palo Corona Pano

break and turned to photography. She had heard about golf photographer **Joann Dost** from a co-worker whose daughter worked for Ms. Dost. When Silke decided to make a career change, she contacted the daughter. In 2007 Silke went to work for **Joann Dost** as an administrative assistant, ending up as a managing director. To further her skills, Silke took many continuing education classes in Graphic Design and Visual Arts at *Monterey Peninsula College* and *Pacific Grove Adult School*. From 2010–2015 she took at least 15 sessions with **Barbara Moon Batista** and **Fernando Batista**. No longer with Dost, Silke is currently working on her certification for *Google AdWords* - their advertising module - and with that she hopes to land a job in on-line marketing.

Silke discovered *PTCC* the year she left the *Highlands Inn* to work in a more creative field. She doesn't remember exactly how she discovered it. "I probably *Googled* it," she said. Silke joined in 2008 and has served as the judge recruiter and liaison for the past two years. Silke worked at *CPA* for a few months in 2012 and also knew photography teachers at *MPC*, so she felt she could help.

Silke said that joining *PTCC* offered her the first opportunity in her whole career to have friends outside of work; to connect with people who live on the Peninsula and are like-minded around a common interest. "I felt for the first time that I actually had a life outside of work."

Travel is Silke's first love. Her adventures have taken her to several countries within Europe, across the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Argentina and Chile.

In the United States, she likes exploring the U.S. National Parks, especially in the Southwest. There is a wonderful article with Silke's beautiful images in the **June 2014** newsletter of *the Photographers' Formulary*: "**Silke Laetz**

**'the Grand Circle' in HDR.**" Find the pdf at:

[http://photoformulary.homestead.com/June2014NL\\_I.pdf](http://photoformulary.homestead.com/June2014NL_I.pdf)



## Shots and Spots Wilder Ranch State Park

by Ken Jones

Situated ten miles north of Santa Cruz, this former dairy farm is a wonderful place to take pictures. The ranch itself provides historic architecture, rustic settings, animals and human subjects. There are hiking trails that take you into the woods or down to the coast. The Club had a **Group Shoot** there in 2012 and it was great fun. You can easily spend a day there wandering through the buildings and the trails. There are picnic tables set among the barns with some shade.



Images by Ken Jones



Another twenty miles up the coast gets you to *Año Nuevo State Park* where, if the time is right, you can get pretty up-close and personal with elephant seals. Is this a great place to live or what?



## Mundos Cafe Exhibits

This exciting opportunity to exhibit our PTCC member's images is fast approaching! Thanks to *Chester Ng* and the *ImageMakers*, we have two group shows, of 6 weeks each, at *Mundos Cafe* at 170 Webster Street, in Monterey. Our dates are:

- Sun, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Sat, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Sun, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - Sat, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Each run can handle just 13 pieces. A list of the participating artists and a complete **Exhibit Fact Sheet** are available on our **Member Resources** page under **Special Event Information**. This page should answer all of your questions, so please be sure to read it thoroughly! You might want to go check out the space (and the food) at *Mundos*, but the fact sheet also has a photo of the exhibit space if you can't get there in person before the show. If you'd like to participate and haven't signed up yet, contact *John Drum* or *Jared Ikeda* right away: [info@padretrailsc.org](mailto:info@padretrailsc.org). Space is limited!



## September Review

At our September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting we were treated to a dazzling array of prints from a number of members, many of whom received high honors at the *Monterey County Fair*. *Dominique Gallet's* 3<sup>rd</sup> place color image of a preening gull not only won a ribbon, but also notice from the curator of the **CHOMP** photography collection. The curator just bought *Dominique's* print to display at **CHOMP**! Not too shabby for a first time entrant! *Dominique* also showed us her first ever slide show, a beautiful collection of her stunning bird images. Congratulations, *Dominique*. Thanks also to *Bill Shewchuk*, *John Drum*, *Jeff Hobbs* and *Bruce Dettlefsen* for sharing their prints.

Our September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting brought us the last returns of the 2015-16 Club year with our **Travel images**, judged by *Chester Ng*. Chester has an exhaustive list of 27 elements that he looks for. We'll publish that list in the **November** newsletter and try to examine how those elements help an image. Congratulations to the winners! You can check out the winning images on our web page, under *Image Gallery*. There are so many photo events happening around the Peninsula; view a full list at: <http://mpenphotoevents.blogspot.com>. The *CPA's 8x10 Exhibition*, which runs through November 6<sup>th</sup>, is outstanding this year. They are recruiting new members: <http://photography.org>.



## October Look-Ahead

Our **October 5<sup>th</sup>** meeting will bring us a presentation from *Craig Wandke*. *Craig* was born in Virginia and moved to Cuba when he was six, with his geologist father. He attended Cuban schools and was interested in photography from an early age and, though twelve, was aware of the momentous political events in Cuba in 1959 and took time to document his surroundings with his Kodak Retinette. He later moved to Peru and continued his interest in photography, while living in a remote mining town at 12,000 feet above sea level. He was powerfully influenced by *Cunningham, Adams, Weston*, and other members of the f/64 group, and took his black-and-white images with a Rolleiflex. He did his own processing and printing, while continuing his Kodachrome color slide work with a Nikon F. In keeping with his ideal of composing at the viewfinder, his favorite quote, taped to the back of his Nikon, was Minor White's "*Be still with yourself until the object of your attention affirms your presence.*" During the last eight years *Craig* has reluctantly moved to digital photography and is still getting used to the idea of post-exposure manipulation! *Craig* was a teacher and a manager at a local interpretation company and is currently retired. Should be a great night!

On the **19<sup>th</sup> of October**, we'll see the returns of our first Pictorial of 2017. Our Judge will be local photographer *Dan Danbom*, who judged for us in 2013. His website: <http://quicksilverfastphoto.com>.



## Tips and Tricks

### • How to price your photos:

From *Brooks Leffler*: *Doug Davlin* pointed me to this site which may be of interest:

<http://photography.rosh.com/digitalpricing/>

### • Snowy Plover vs. Sanderling:

From *Judi Clayton*: I found this as I was struggling to identify a Western Snowy Plover vs. a Sanderling.

<http://oceanbeachdog.home.mindspring.com>



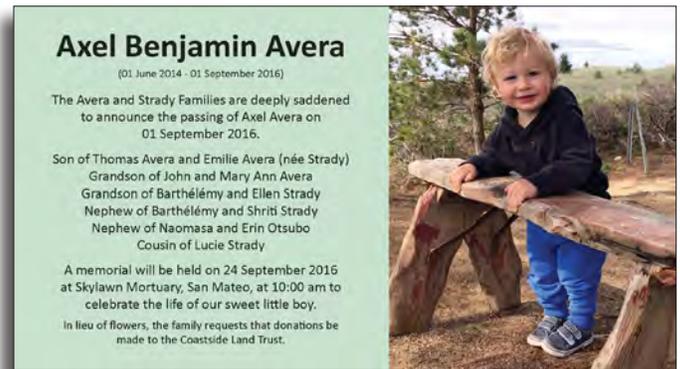
## Errata

Please note this correction to the link to *Chester Ng*'s Facebook page in the September 2016 issue. The correct link to *Chester*'s page is: <http://www.facebook.com/chester.ng.14/photos>.



## In Memory of Axel Avera

It is with great sadness and heartfelt condolences that we publish this memoriam to little *Axel Avera*, grandson of *John* and *Mary Ann Avera*, who died on **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**.



As many of you know, *John* and *Mary Ann* are long time members of *PTCC*. *John* is a past Vice President and Competition Lead, and has been hauling the projection equipment to our meetings for years. Please know that you are in our thoughts.



## Many Thanks

To *Carol and Jeff Silveira* and *Chris Johnson* for providing the tasty snacks at our September meetings. The new snacks list is out and needs sign-ups. And, *Chris Johnson* really needs someone else to take over organizing the hospitality corner every meeting. Please sign up and also talk to *Chris*. She has been doing this job for a long while now and really needs a break!

Thanks to *Shelley Nemeth* and *Cath Tendler-Valencia* for their help in proof-reading the newsletter. Your diligence is invaluable! Thank you!



## Editor's Corner

*Bits & Pixels* really could use input from our members. We'd love to see more of your images, hear about your photographic experiences, your questions, learn about your tips, tricks and techniques, and any other photo related info you'd be willing to share. Want to write a column?

Please send your comments, suggestions, images and photographic news items to us by clicking on "*Letters to the Editor*" at the bottom of the *Bits & Pixels* Newsletter page on our website or to: [info@padretrailscc.org](mailto:info@padretrailscc.org).

~ Happy shooting!

*Carmay Knowles, Editor*