

# Bits & Pixels

April 2016

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

www.padretrailsccl.org

## Old Monterey Foundation, Padre Trails Camera Club and Myrick Photographic to Hold Lower Presidio Historic Park Photo Contest

Through the efforts of PTCC member, **Chris Johnson**, the Club has been approached by the Old Monterey Foundation to partner with them and **Steve Myrick, Myrick Photographic**, to conduct a **Lower Presidio Historic Park Photo Contest**. The contest will run throughout the month of April with a May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for submissions. The particulars are set down in the following excerpt from the Foundation's Press Release. The full release has been posted to our website in **Member Resources, Special Events**.



**March 28, 2016. Monterey, CA.** Old Monterey Foundation, Padre Trails Camera Club and Myrick Photographic have teamed up to hold a special **Lower Presidio Historic Park Photo Contest** this Spring. Entrants are asked to take a photo of or on or from any part of the 25 acre park

and email their 1024x768 photo to [brickman@brickmanmarketing.com](mailto:brickman@brickmanmarketing.com) no later than **May 1, 2016**. Each entrant may submit a maximum of 3 images. **Stephen Myrick**, owner of Myrick Photographic, will head up the panel of judges and decisions will be made by **May 23, 2016**.

The first place winner will receive a 12x18 canvas gallery wrap of their winning image donated by Myrick Photographic and a "Friends of the Lower Presidio" membership (\$100 value) donated by Old Monterey Foundation. The second and third place winners will each receive a \$25 gift certificate from Myrick Photographic and a "Friends of the Lower Presidio" membership (\$100 value). There will also be \$20 cash prizes each for five participants whose images receive Honorable Mention that will be provided by Padre Trails Camera Club. The winning photos will be displayed on the Old Monterey Foundation website with a photo credit. The photos will be judged by the basic elements of a good photographic image, composition, exposure, subject interest, sharpness, and creativity. For any questions, call (831) 633-4444 or email [brickman@brickmanmarketing.com](mailto:brickman@brickmanmarketing.com).

This partnership represents an incredible opportunity for the Club to not only promote a beautiful resource right in our back yard, but to provide leadership in the amateur photographic community and help energize local photographers. PTCC will be contributing to the prize structure with a total of \$100 in cash prizes to be divided among those photographers receiving Honorable Mention in the contest.

Of course, PTCC members are encouraged to participate. We may even make it Group Shoot in early April.

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View from Lower Presidio Historic Park



## My Two Bits ... Halftime Report

Next month we'll be half way through our 2015-16 Club Year and I think we've done pretty well so far. We've had some very informative Skills Nights, set a record for our contribution to the Monterey County Food Bank through our annual print donation and raffle and our special programs have featured extremely talented photographers, **David Gubernick, C. Jo Gough and Richard Green**. Our annual competitive field trip was well attended and generated some extraordinary images despite the inclement weather and our recent Group Shoot to Moss Landing was a success in all aspects. Our competition process has been smooth, the number of submissions have increased and the quality of images from all three groups has never been higher. Our website continues to shine, inform and draw new member interest and our Facebook presence continues to put our best foot forward in the social media arena. None of this is automatic or all that easy, of course, it's the result of the dedication and hard work of a team of members who give of their time and talent to make it all happen. My personal appreciation goes out to all of the activity chairs, Club officers and others who make PTCC work.

~ Take your lens cap off.  
Ken Jones



### 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

## Remembering Al Weber 1930 - 2016

**A**l Weber, a dear friend and mentor to us all, passed away in late February. Al was born in Denver, Colorado in 1930. He received an A.A. in photography and a B.A. in Education from the University of Denver. After serving as a Captain in the Marines during the Korean Conflict he moved to the Monterey Peninsula where he established himself as a commercial photographer. Weber was internationally recognized for the breadth of his work and his contributions as a teacher and mentor.



Photo by R R. Jones

We've all been influenced by Al and he will be missed. He taught throughout the West and was a driving force in the Friends of Photography, where he chaired the Education Committee and was a Trustee. Al also taught for the University of California at Santa Cruz, San Jose State University, and for 18 years at the Ansel Adams Workshops in Yosemite, as well as the School of the Art Institute, Chicago, and Cal Arts among many other prestigious institutions. For more, see: <http://lumieregallery.net/wp/194/al-weber/> ~ Written by *Brian Taylor*, CPA

The Club sent a living flower basket to Al's wife, Suzy, with our thoughts and condolences. We checked and Al didn't want anything big, nor did he want gifts in lieu of flowers to any organization.



### Check It Out!

*Peter Monteforte* has a print show, "Journey Through Patagonia" at Joe Rombi's La Piccola Casa in Pacific Grove through June 6. The restaurant is open Monday and Tuesday 6:30 AM - 11:30 AM and Wednesday through Sunday 6:30 AM - 9 PM.



### Moving on Up!

Congratulations to *Sylvia Gardner* who has moved from AAA to AA. Well done!



## In the Spotlight

**B**rooks Leffler was born in San Francisco in 1932. Marin County was home for his first eight years. He went to Lowell High School in San Francisco, then headed off to Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. His parents moved to Seattle and after two years at Whitman, Brooks transferred to the University of Washington majoring in Radio and Television. He graduated in 1956. There was an educational television station on campus - the eighth station in the system that has become PBS - and Brooks was able to step directly into a two-year producer/director job right after graduation. When that job was up he went to WGBH in Boston because they offered a master's degree program. At WGBH Brooks did everything, including running a camera on the first series about dance, "A Time to Dance." Although he didn't get his master's, he had good experience in broadcasting. He went back home to Seattle and was eventually hired by KOAC-TV in Corvallis, Oregon.

**I**t was in Corvallis that Brooks met Gretchen on a blind date. They dated for just under six months before they got married in 1960. Brooks said he knew at four months that he wanted to marry her and they were married for 54 years when Gretchen passed away in October 2014. Their two children, Andrea, 55, and John, 53, were both born in Oregon, but now live on the East Coast; each has two children.

**F**rom Corvallis Brooks went to KOAP TV in Portland, then to KLRN, a public TV station at the University of Texas in Austin. Six months later he was offered a job as Production Manager in Philadelphia at WHYY, a major opportunity at which he jumped! At WHYY Brooks was able to work with mobile color for the first time. In 1971 they moved to Washington D.C. and Brooks went to work at PBS headquarters as Associate Director of station relations, acting as liaison between member stations and the network staff. He was employee #72 and was there for about 7 years. In 1979 he went to work for the public telecommunications facilities funding program of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, which, Brooks says, made him a federal bureaucrat in charge of planning, a long ways from what he had gone into communications for. After a few more flirtations with different communications jobs, Brooks got fed up and laid himself off, getting his pink slip on April 1st, 1982.

**H**appily, Brooks had just bought a kite store in Annapolis. While in D.C. he had gotten into sailing and dreamed of owning a marina, but after looking around decided there was no way he could afford one. He had dabbled with kites all his life - they relate to the wind and have the same metaphysical jolt as sailing - but since he couldn't go sailing on his lunch hour he got himself a kite and went down to the mall and flew his kite. One day on the Ellipse behind the White House, he was flying two kites when the White House Police approached him and said, "Excuse me sir, the President would like to leave, would you please take your kites down?" Owning a kite shop was like running a small TV station, Brooks had to do everything himself: set design, graphics, copy-writing etc., but this allowed him to recapture his creative juices. Five years later Brooks and Gretchen were both happy in their jobs when her Aunt, who lived in Pacific Grove, died and left her house to Gretchen and her sister. When they came out to settle the aunt's affairs, Brooks looked out at the ocean for a few minutes and said, "Anytime you're ready!" They decided to make the move, bought out the sister's share, and moved here in 1988.



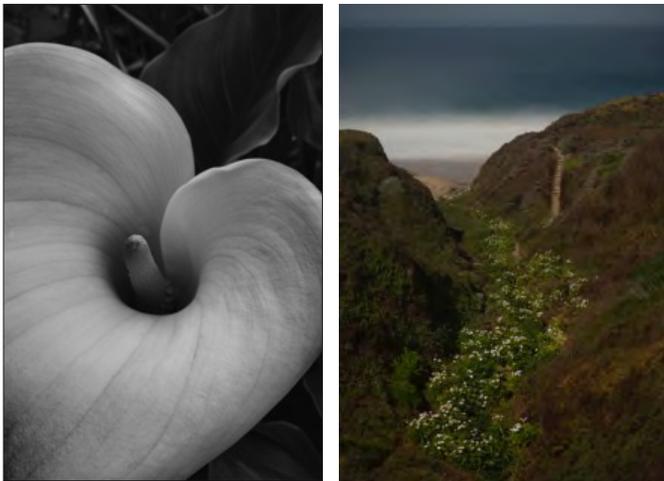
Brooks Leffler by Carmay Knowles

**I**n 1990, Brooks was appointed Executive Director of the American Kitefliers Association - a part time job that turned into 60 hours a week by the time her retired in 1994. During that time he decided to make himself a camera cradle to take pictures from a kite line, and to publish a quarterly newsletter on the subject. A diagram of his first rig in that newsletter led to orders, and after retiring from AKA, Brooks developed his rig designs into kits, eventually spending 10 years marketing kite camera cradles online. He sold that business in 2013 and is now, finally, really retired.

**B**rooks got into photography in middle school when a teacher taught him the rudiments of photography and chemical processing. **Sharon Blaziek** found Brooks and brought him to PTCC as a guest speaker on Kite Aerial Photography. He joined in Fall 2010. Brooks is the official filter for the AA group, and unofficially for the A group since Sharon's passing. He says he really enjoys it and loves that he is the first to see the images. Brooks says, "PTCC provides me a pleasurable focus twice a month, It's fun. I learn things. I love the esthetic jolt I get from looking at pictures. I like the people. I like the challenge of taking pictures of things I didn't think I wanted to take pictures of. The club has made me a much more flexible photographer. It stimulates my creative thinking, from the standpoint of both the creative and mechanical processes."

## Shots & Spots

From **Jeff Hobbs**: The Calla Lilies are out at Doud Creek, which is about 9.2 miles from Rio Road at Highway 1 in Carmel to Garrapata Beach trail head. Park on the right side (dirt side) of the road and the trail head is right there. **Important: Do no leave anything in your car! Friends have had their car broken into and camera equipment stolen. Bring what you are going to use and leave the rest at home.** Take that trail about 1/4 mile and you'll get to Doud Creek where all the Calla Lilies are. You can also get to the beach from there. If you have rubber boots you might think about bringing those as it can get muddy, but even without boots you can still work most of the lilies.



Calla Lilies, Doud Creek and Garrapata Beach images by Jeff Hobbs.



## A Bit and/or Pixel

From **Brooks Leffler**: The Nik collection of Photoshop plugins is now **free**.

<https://plus.google.com/+NikCollection/posts/AFGsG2Di7EK>

## Still Life Photography

Ever stuck on a subject for photography? There are many things around your home that make great subjects. Try these:

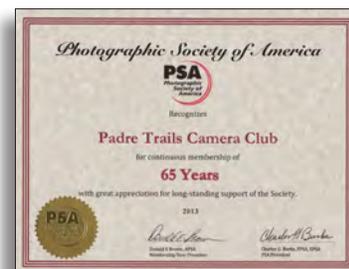
1. Flowers:
  - In a vase—shoot from the side.
  - Lay flat and shoot from above.
  - Experiment with different backgrounds.
  - Close up, especially with beads of dew.
2. Food:
  - Fill frame with raw ingredients.
  - Different stages of the cooking process.
  - Cakes, cookies and chocolates...mm, mm, good!
3. Household objects:
  - Kitchen implements.
  - Flames on a gas stove.
4. Stationary and art materials.
  - Colored pencils from above.
5. Vintage items.
6. Jewelry.
7. Tools and garden equipment.
  - Again, think about the background.
8. Nature:
  - Leaves, flowers, feathers, acorns, pinecones, shells....
  - Plain background.
  - Consider macro lens.
9. Found objects—take them home.
  - Try fine water spray on feathers.
10. Other outdoor subjects:
  - Bike leaning against a wall.
  - Small details such as rust or peeling paint.

Have fun!

~ Bill Shewchuk

## Padre Trails Recognized by PSA

PTCC has received a letter from the PSA recognizing our Club's 65 year membership. Although we hit that number in 2013, apparently there was a glitch in the PSA's ability to generate membership milestone certificates. Better late than never.



## March in Review

March turned out to be a fairly exceptional month for us. First was our varied and fully packed Open Projector on March 2nd which brought us a wide array of images. Prints included "Ariel Dancers" in San Francisco by *Bruce Detlefsen*, snow leopards and other amazing wild cats by *Linda Abbey* and delicate floral prints and illustrations by *Carmay Knowles*. Projected images took us to a beautiful Cuba thanks to *Bill Shewchuk*, to stunning Yosemite thanks to *Jeff Hobbs* and to heavenly Hawaii thanks to *Jared Ikeda*. A great evening of stimulating images. Second was our Group Shoot to Moss Landing recapped here on page six and finally on March 16th the returns of our Pictorial #2 competition which was judged by PTCC Pro Member *Doug Steakley*. Doug's extraordinary in person commentary was equal parts critique and photography workshop. April has big shoes to fill.



## April Submission Backyard Nature

Many of you may love to photograph birds, animals, flowers and other natural beauty but may be reluctant to submit images in the **Nature** category because of the intimidating nature (pardon the expression) of the strict PSA definitions. Here's your chance to have your nature shot and submit it too. The makeup of this new category was spelled out in the **March** issue of Bits & Pixels and is also available through a link from our **Calendar** page for **April 24<sup>th</sup>**. Check it out and have fun with this one.



## Time Traveling Call for Entries: Baby Pictures

After the fun and successful Halloween images show that *Carol Silveira* put together last fall, she's putting out a new call for entries. This time Carol wants us to submit images from our childhood: a baby or toddler picture of ourselves from any year when we were little. Send one baby picture to Carol by **May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Make sure to put your name in the title of the image info, but not on the image itself. Format your image as you would for competitions. At our **June 1, 2016** meeting, as part of the Open Projector night, Carol will show our childhood photos and we'll have fun trying to guess who's who! Should be a hoot!



## April - May Look Ahead

No fooling, April should be an exciting month. We have the **Lower Presidio Historical Park Contest** which is featured here on page 1 and will be discussed at our April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to see if there's interest in a Group Shoot or simply independent play time. Also at that first April meeting we'll welcome special guest *Chris Benton*. Mr. Benton is a retired UC Berkeley professor of architecture and renowned kite-aerial photographer. His stunning collection of images of the South Bay can be seen by following the link from our **Calendar** page. Should be an amazing evening.

At our second April meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, we'll see the returns of our Photojournalism competition with comments from our judge, *Richard Green* who was our special guest in February. PJ is challenging and viewing our images with Mr. Green's input should be an eye-opener in many respects.

The April competition submission is our **Nature #2, Backyard Nature**, due in your group's e-mail box no later than April 24<sup>th</sup>. The way the dates fall this cycle is a little shorter than usual so don't put off working on this one. See the note in **April Submission** about this new competition category.

At our first meeting in May, *Dominique Gallet* will share her love of bird photography and some of the techniques she uses to capture their grace and beauty. Many of Dominique's images have scored highly in our competitions and many more have made our visits to Facebook a true pleasure. Dominique's approach is simple but extremely effective as evidenced by her results. A "Don't miss" evening. Our second May meeting will bring the returns of our **Nature #2** competition.

Our May submission category is **Creative**. The name says it all, doesn't it? Creative images may include the effects of any modifications, filters, plug-ins, apps, etc., as well as unusual points of view, imaginative use of subjects or lighting or any other presentation that starts with your image or collection of images. Look back to past year's Creative winners (**Image Gallery**) and be inspired.



## What's So Funny?

*History repeats, sort of...*

*Yesterday's photographers stood for hours in their dark room. Today's sit for hours in their LightRoom.*



## Recap of March 12<sup>th</sup> Moss Landing Group Shoot

Mother Nature proved once again how much she loves photographers on March 12th. After a week of sometimes heavy rain, our Saturday at Moss Landing dawned dry and almost bright. All in all, perfect for our purpose. Over twenty-four members combed the town and harbor, some as usual (You know who you are...), from before sunrise. The Slough boat safari was also great fun. The only regret being the boat couldn't accommodate everyone who may have wanted to be on board. Maybe next time, we'll have enough folks come out that it will make sense to hire two boats.

Our mid-day lunch at *The Whole Enchilada* was fulfilling and we even had a visit from owner, Ray, who presented our President with Star Sunglasses and a Power Ball ticked for the drawing that night. Ken gave the ticket to VP *John Drum* to safeguard. Efforts to contact John on Sunday were unsuccessful until an e-mail was received from John saying that the Club hadn't won anything, but that he was on his way to Paris. It was later learned that the ticket yielded only one number. We still have the sunglasses.

Up to 10 of your best shots can go into an upcoming show. Prep them as for competitions and send them directly to *Brooks Leffler*. Subject your transmitting e-mail "Moss Landing Show Images." Get them submitted to *Brooks* before the end of March to make sure your shots are included.

Group Shoots take us to some great places to photograph and often take us out of our comfort zones, but they always bring us together, too. Another fun day with a wonderful group of people.



Photos by Shelley Nemeth



### Editor's Corner

Thanks to *Bill Shewchuk* and *Jeff Hobbs* for making contributions to this month's newsletter, and to *Brooks Leffler* for a most enjoyable *Spotlight* interview. We can use all the submissions you're willing to send us. Please don't be shy about sharing your images, your photographic discoveries, your questions. Submissions need to be received by the 20th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Send to: [info@padretrailscc.org](mailto:info@padretrailscc.org). Our newsletters will just get better with your participation! Thank you!

Carmay Knowles, Editor



Photo by safari guide, Giancarlo Thomae