

Bits & Pixels

August 2016

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www.padretrailsc.org

August Look-Ahead

August will start with a program on *Architectural photography by Barbara Moon*. There is a lovely article about *Barbara* and *Fernando Batista* in the current Spring/Summer 2016 issue of *Carmel* magazine. This program is particularly relevant to us as we begin to think about subjects and approaches to images for our *2017 Constructed Environment* print show in Seaside. The inspiration behind the theme of this exhibit came from the unique nature of central coast architecture, highways, bridges and public art that define its personality. See page 5 for details and event participant time line on this exhibit. Both *Barbara* and *Fernando* are unquestioned experts in their field and both are gifted teachers. Learning from them how to successfully capture our vision of this place in a photograph will result in your own satisfaction as a photographer and will create an impactful image to add to the exhibit. Please don't miss this meeting.

At our second August meeting on the 17th, we'll see the returns of our third and last *Nature* competition of the year, which will be judged by *David Rosen*. David judged for us last year. He says he is passionate about birds and birding, but also enjoys high-magnification work with aquatic invertebrates and "broad sweeping landscapes and panoramas, plus everything in between." His work has been published in many national magazines.

Images for our Travel competition are due on **Sunday, August 28th**.

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Listening to My Elders

The *Friends of the Pacific Grove Library* is presenting an exhibit entitled "*Listening to My Elders*" in the Pacific Grove Public Library's recently restored Nancy and Steve Hauk Gallery, through the months of August and September 2016. The collection of 15 'Conversational Portraits' is the product of local photographer and Padre Trails Camera Club member **Shelley Nemeth**, who is also a part-time circulation desk clerk at the Library,

The exhibit, which opens on **August 1st** and is curated by **Christine Crozier**, will celebrate selected patrons who are in their advanced years - most in their 80s and 90s - and who make the Library a regular part of their lives, using it to stay bright and active as they grow older. Ms. Nemeth has had the opportunity to interact with her subjects on the job frequently and has chosen, on her own time, to honor their involvement in life and the Library by creating candid, conversational portraits of each one.



Photo by Shelley Nemeth

The *Friends of the Library* will celebrate the exhibit's opening at a reception open to the public during the City of Pacific Grove's monthly **Art Walk on Friday, August 5th, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**. The Pacific Grove Library, at 550 Central Avenue, Pacific Grove, is open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, and Friday and Saturday

from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It is closed on Sunday. To contact the Library, call 831-648-5760. The Gallery is open during all Library open hours and the public is welcome.



Photo by Shelley Nemeth



Tips and Tricks: Black & White Conversion

Among many interesting articles in the May/June 2016 issue of *Digital PhotoPro* magazine, is one on page 74 about the workflow of black & white conversion. The author, *Theano Nikitas*, a journalist and photographer who's written about photography for 20+ years, says one of her "personal favorite tools for black & white conversions is *Silver Efex Pro 2*." This plug-in, part of Google's *Nik Collection*, is compatible with *Adobe Photoshop*, *Lightroom*, and *Apple Aperture* and can be downloaded for free. The article walks one through the whole process of converting a color image into a black and white image. I tried it, including downloading *Nik*, and had some success. The article is on the web: <http://www.digitalphotopro.com/technique/photography-workflow/black-white-conversion/>

- Carmay Knowles



Left, as shot. Right converted to B&W. Image by Carmay Knowles.

Padre Trails Camera Club

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM
Hilltop Center, 871 Jessie St., Monterey
831-646-3975
www.padretrailsc.org

2015-2016 Officers:

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

Activity Chairs:

Awards - *Chris Johnson*
Competitions - *John Drum & Joni Zabala*
Greeter: *Bill Shewchuk*
Hospitality - *Chris Johnson*
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



2017 Club Year: So What's New?

Planning for the 2016-17 Club year was finalized, to a large extent, at the Board's July 16th meeting. The basic general meeting plan remains, but with a few new wrinkles. We'll still be having three Pictorial competitions, three Nature, a Black & White, Photojournalism, Creative and Travel. In the pictorial world, the first submission, due this September, will be open to all subjects. The second, which submits in February, will have a directed theme of "Circles." We'll talk more about that. The third and last Pictorial, submitting in July, will be limited to images captured with a cell phone. These are some interesting variations on the pictorials.

On the Nature side, again we'll have three competitions throughout the year. The first, due on **October 30th** and the second, due in April, are Open - PSA Compliant competitions. The third Nature competition will reprise this year's "Backyard" or casual guidelines. There was some confusion the first time we rolled this one out, but the definitions included in our website still define the effort. To solve probably the biggest misconception about this format, next year we're adding the caveat that images submitted to "Backyard" nature should be those that could **not** be submitted to PSA compliant competitions. The rest of the competition categories will remain as they were this year. There may be subtle changes noted later, but for now they'll remain as always.

We'll have **Groups Shoots**, of course, though they've not been defined as yet. If you have ideas, please bring them up at a meeting or e-mail any Board member to share your thoughts. Our competitive field trip venue has not been selected but it will occur in mid-late January as in the past. From a **Program and Skills Night** perspective, we're hoping to fill the year with informative and entertaining guests and topics. The incoming chairs are hard at work on this.

The 2016-17 calendar will be up at the website as a preview shortly and our meeting plan and competition schedule will be posted to Member Resources soon. It's going to be another great year!

- Ken Jones



In the Spotlight ~ Cath Tandler-Valencia

Cath Tandler-Valencia was born in New Haven, Connecticut *"during the era of black and white pictures with the crinkly edges around them."* She went to Amity High School in Woodbridge, a little town adjacent to New Haven, where she'll attend her 50th high school reunion this October. Her Dad died in 1968 and her Mom moved to Florida. Cath studied linguistics, French, and Spanish at American University in Washington, D.C., then went to graduate school at Boston College and studied education. She worked as a secretary at Harvard Business School for two years, then taught for two years at Perkins School for the Blind where she learned braille. She became proficient at reading braille with her eyes and learned to transcribe it. Cath came to California and got her Master's in Special Education for visually impaired from San Francisco State in 1976 which led to a job with the Monterey County Office of Education, where she worked as an itinerant teacher --- driving to her students. She retired from that job in 2010 after working for them full-time for 34 years.



Cath volunteering

Cath is an avid cyclist. She tries to cycle about 100 miles a week, which explains why she doesn't take many pictures. Because she's out and about on the road, she hasn't invested in Photoshop or Lightroom, so she doesn't take time to sit down at her computer to manipulate her digital photos.

She also has an apparent passion for volunteering. Cath recently stepped down from serving as Treasurer of the CHOMP Auxiliary, but still volunteers at the CHOMP Reception Desk. Her many other volunteer activities include: Big Sur International Marathon, Tour of California, Sea Otter Classic, Monterey Jazz Festival, MPC Theatre - both as an usher and a proofreader.

She also proofreads for the California Native Plant Society and a state-wide organization for teachers of the visually impaired. In October, Cath will become the PTCC Treasurer.

When asked what she likes about PTCC, Cath said, "Arm chair travel! I get to sit in a room and go where people have gone. I enjoy the camaraderie of the members and the vast experiences and travels that people share. There is always something new to learn. I am especially appreciative of all the people who have served on the board over the decades making outstanding images and events happen in our community!"

Her family had a Polaroid camera which gave instant visibility and Cath remembers the familiar aroma

of that sliding cylindrical stick that sealed the images. As a kid she had a Brownie with a flash, then a Minox, then a Canon TL QL. In college she took a class in B&W photography, learning how to develop images



Sunny Isles Beach - Cath Tandler-Valencia

in the darkroom. Cath says it was *"always very magical how a watery liquid could make paper have an image."* She took a lot of slide pictures of people and travel.

Cath doesn't remember how she first heard about PTCC -- she's been a member since around 1988 -- when the meetings were at the public library in downtown Monterey and were all about slides! Her earliest PTCC award was in 1988 for "23 and Me" which has always been a favorite competition. She "hosted" it for a couple of years, back when it required slide projectors and tape recorders for the judges. She reminisced that she brought her future husband to PTCC on an early date and happened to win a slide competition that evening. Cath has photographed for her professional teachers' organization conferences for about nine years. Her current equipment includes a Minolta Maximum 7000i for film with 35-80 and 80-200 lenses and a Canon EOS digital camera with 18-55 and 75-300 lenses, plus a Canon PowerShot SD4500 IS.

And to tie her profession with photography, Cath adds, "I pride myself with helping my low vision students see their world the best that they can with the vision that they have, and, for my blind students, helping them learn what is vital in their world with the lack of vision, as vision can be redundant of what we can learn through our other senses. I want to add that I also taught my favorite subject, Orientation and Mobility, the set of skills necessary to travel one's environment safely, accurately and efficiently, with or without vision, and with or without a white cane. My email address 'eyebabe' encapsulates it all: my profession, photography, and our window out to our world." Here's Cath's haiku for eyes:



Car - Cath Tandler-Valencia

*"concentric circles
enveloped in two ovals
looking at our world"*



Shots and Spots

From *Bill Shewchuk*: Rocky Ridge and Soberanes Canyon Trail in Garrapata State Park:



Rocky Ridge and Soberanes Canyon images by Bill Shewchuk.

The trailhead is just 6.8 miles from Rio Road on Highway 1. There's no marker visible from the highway, but look for a large pullout under a distinctive row of cypress trees that line the highway. The trailhead is a gated dirt road that leads to an abandoned tin barn. This hike may not be for everyone because it begins with a brutally steep climb to a dramatic coastal viewpoint. An even steeper descent into a redwood-filled canyon follows. In spring and early summer it's full of wild flowers. For full details and a map of the trail see: <http://www.redwoodhikes.com/BigSur/Garrapata.html>



A Little Humor...

When Jack London had his portrait made by the noted San Francisco photographer Arnold Genthe, London began the encounter with effusive praise for the photographic art of his friend and fellow bohemian, Genthe. "You must have a wonderful camera. It must be the best camera in the world. You must show me your camera." Genthe then used his standard studio camera to make what has since become a classic picture of Jack London. When the sitting was finished, Genthe could not contain himself: "I have read your books, Jack, and I think they are important works of art. You must have a wonderful typewriter." Anonymous

Found at <http://www.photoquotes.com/>



More Treasures Than Ever...

According to *Pacific Grove Art Center's* Executive Director *Teresa Brown*, "This year we collected far more donated treasures than ever before. We have 180 pieces on the wall. The quality of the artwork is simply stupendous."



Pacific Grove Art Center

A dozen or more PTCC members donated works and many were at the opening reception on Friday, July 1st. The show closes on **August**

25th. Anyone can support the PG Art Center by buying raffle tickets - on sale through **August 25th** for \$5 each or 10 for \$40 - and placing them into the corresponding boxes below each piece of art. After **August 25th** a drawing for each piece will take place and the winning ticket holders' names will be posted on the *Pacific Grove Art Center* website within two weeks of the show's closing. More info and the full list of donors is on the website: <http://www.pgartcenter.org>



PTCC members at the opening reception, from upper left: Carol Silveira, Brooks Leffler, Silke Laetz, Ken Jones and grandson, Alejandro.
Photos by Carmay Knowles



My Favorite Image

by Ken Jones

This truly is one of my favorite images. It was taken at Asilomar State Beach at almost 2 o'clock in the afternoon on the day after Christmas, 2007. I love the complementary shapes, colors, textures and relative size of the rock and the body of the sandpiper, the motion in his stride and the softness of the wet sand and receding surf. It was taken with a Nikon D300 with a 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6 lens, all the way out to 400mm. With an ISO setting of 200 and aperture priority, it was shot at f/9 1/320th of a second. However, I wasn't thinking about any of that when I saw the little guy walking along the water's edge. I plopped down on a knee and started pressing the shutter. This image is one I printed for PTCC's *Monterey County, Naturally* exhibition at the PG Museum of Natural History in January, 2008. I'm glad I did. On opening night, I noticed an elderly woman looking at the print and smiling. When I approached her and introduced myself, she told me she was happy because she had always loved sandpipers but that she'd lost much of her sight and couldn't see them on the beach anymore.



Rock and Shore Bird - Ken Jones



Submit your Favorite Image!

We encourage PTCC members to share their favorite image with us! We'd love to see it. Send your image and story to: info@padretrailsc.org or click on "Letters to the Editor" at the bottom of the Bits & Pixels Newsletter page on our website. The deadline for submissions to the next month's newsletter is the 20th of the current month. So, for the September Bits & Pixels please submit by August 20th. We're looking for any image or story or item of photographic interest to our members. Please don't be shy!



2017 PTCC Print Exhibition

Plans are moving forward for the Club's May/June 2017 print exhibit at the *Walter Lee Avery City Hall Gallery* in Seaside. At press time, fourteen members have chosen to participate. We will update as more come in. The exhibit will consist of roughly 30 prints, each an individual interpretation the theme of the exhibit: **Central Coast Style: The Constructed Environment**. The *Constructed Environment* consists of man-made structures that define the unique personality of California's Central Coast.



Online Registration: PTCC members may register their intent to participate by completing the online form found in *Member Resources/Special Events* at our website: padretrailsc.org. At press time, fourteen members have submitted their intent. All PTCC members are encouraged to take part. The more visions represented, the better.

- **Geographical Scope:** For this purpose the Central Coast area is the counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito and San Luis Obispo.

- **2016-17 Action Time line for Participants:**

- Intent to participate due by **August 1, 2016**.
- Submit a digital image of your intended entry by **October 1, 2016**.
- Submit your final print information by **January 18, 2017**.
- Submit your finished print by **April 10, 2017**.

Prints may be color or black & white. Maximum finished size is 16"x 20," and there is no minimum. Prints must be framed and matted appropriately suitable for gallery showing, e.g., simple black wood or metal gallery-quality frames. They may employ glass or plexiglass. Canvas wraps are not acceptable. Screw eyes and wires must be in place (one third of the total distance from the top of the frame). Identification labels must be placed on the back of each piece with the name and phone number of the artist, title of the print, the medium used and the print's value.

All of this and more information about preparing for this exhibit, and some possible subject examples, is available at our website. Go to: **Member Resources > Special Events**.



My Two Bits ... Mentoring: The Spirit of PTCC

The idea of providing individual help to our members to reach their personal goals as photographers has been at the heart of Padre Trails Camera Club for a long time. It's often the case that new PTCC members are drawn to us by a desire to take better pictures, even though "better" is not always well defined. While not everyone aspires to be a photographic artist, we all have some bit of artistic creativity that is nurtured by our photography. The learning process toward a satisfying expression of that creativity through our images can be daunting. Our monthly competitions are a large part of this process, one that too many of our newer members are not taking advantage of.

Facilitating the learning process for its members is a primary mission of our Club. To act on that mission validates everything PTCC stands for. At its July 16th meeting, the PTCC Board, which is made up of elected offices and activity chairs, unanimously agreed to make themselves available for individual help to any member who needs and asks for it. This personal help ranges from basic camera operation, organization of your images on your system, post processing on your own editing platform - whatever that may be, to preparing your images for submission to our monthly competitions. The board, collectively, has operated with practically every camera type and editing platform and they're willing to help you with all of it.

This body of mentors consists of: Janet Beaty, John Drum, Shelley Nemeth, Jared Ikeda, Brooks Leffler, Joni Zabala, Chris Johnson, Carol Fuessenich, Bill Shewchuk, Carmay Knowles and myself. If you have an issue that none of the above can solve, I guarantee that someone in the Club can and we'll make sure you get together for the answers you need.

All you have to do is ask.

~ Take your lens cap off.

Ken Jones



Thanks to...

Elke Ikeda and *Bill Shewchuk* for providing tasty snacks at our July meetings. We do need a new volunteer to take over organizing our hospitality corner every month. *Chris Johnson* has been doing this job for a long time now and needs a break, so please talk to her. Thank you!



July Review

At our July 6th meeting *John Avera* gave us a fabulous still life photography skills night. Not only did *John* show his beautiful images, but he brought light boxes and lights and shared his process and workflow, including a live demo of "tethering" with his camera and laptop. It was a most educational and interesting presentation. Thank you, *John*!

We were reminded that the deadline to submit entry forms to the *Monterey County Fair* for visual arts is **August 1st**. More info is available at http://www.montereycountyfair.com/pdf/2016/entry/full_entry_guidebook_16.pdf - scroll down to Visual Arts Department, page 9. Photography is on page 12.

On July 20th, members and guests saw a preview of *Shelley Nemeth's* "Listening to My Elders" show that opens at the Pacific Grove Public Library on **August 1st**. We also saw the returns of our Pictorial #3 images, judged by *Jim Messer*. Congratulations to all the winners! Ken reminded everyone of the **August 1st** deadlines for the intent to participate for both our PTCC April 2017 show and the upcoming 2016 Monterey County Fair.



Welcome...

Our newest member is *Duane Peterson*, a neighbor of *Bill Shewchuk's*, who enjoyed our July 6th meeting. Hope to see you again soon, *Duane*!



Editor's Corner

My husband, *Doug*, and I recently watched a three episode series on PBS called *SuperNature - Wild Flyers*. The photography was stunning! The cutting-edge photographic technology used to capture airborne wild animals is amazing! I recommend trying to see it, especially if you love birds in flight or any animal that breaks free from gravity. Well worth a look!
<http://www.pbs.org/program/super-nature-wild-flyers/>

Please, if you have comments or suggestions to make, or photos or photographic news items to share, please send to: info@padretrailsc.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