

December Look-Ahead

On **December 4th**, our first twelve prints will go up at Mundos Cafe, 170 Webster Street, Monterey. This group of prints will stay up through **January 14th** when we'll take that down and go up with a second group of twelve. Tell everybody about this and tell them how good the sandwiches are, too. These smaller exhibits are excellent training runs for "The Big One" in Seaside next May. Another huge thanks to **Chester Ng** and the **ImageMakers** for giving us these two six-week time slots at Mundos.

Please note: There will **not** be a regular meeting on **Wednesday, December 21st** because Hilltop is closed for the Holidays!

At our one and only meeting in December, at Hilltop on Wednesday the 7th, we'll have a brief **Open Projector** time followed by our annual print donation and raffle to benefit the Food Bank of Monterey. Members can participate in two ways: Bring one or more matted prints to be displayed around the room on Wednesday; and/or buy one or more tickets for a chance to take a print home with you. **Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.**



Here's how it works: Donated prints are displayed and tickets are sold. Participants' numbers are drawn one at a time. The person holding the first ticket drawn gets the pick of everything on display. Each participant whose ticket drawn in turn after that gets to pick from the remaining prints. We'll keep it going until all the prints have a new home.

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My Two Bits ...

A Holiday Thought for the Whole Year

Regardless of political point of view, this election and the campaigns leading up to it have left many feeling a little disappointed in our country. Not because of the results, particularly, but because of the dramatic lowering of the bar regarding civil discourse, politeness or even simple kindness toward our fellow humans. It's seems monumentally ironic to me that coming off months of mean-spirited verbal attacks, we segue into a Holiday Season that, whatever your faith, is grounded in loving each other. It may be simply too much for some to manage. So here's a thought for this Holiday Season that may help, now and throughout the year. I have it taped to my computer screen and it's useful to me when any frustrating or helpless feelings pop up. Pretty simple: **"Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can."** In turning away from the hateful tenor of the last several months toward the spirit of the Holidays and beyond, these simple thoughts may help: Start by being kind to our family, friends and those we meet personally in our lives every day, Use our kindness as an example to others and do what we can to raise the bar of civility, starting where we are.

~ Take your lens cap off.

Ken Jones



Congratulations, Sylvia Gardner

Sylvia's image **"Clean As You Go"** has been selected as a Nominee in Photojournalism at the **11th Annual Black & White Spider Awards**. Out of 7,556 entries received from 71 countries, Sylvia's work received a high percentage of votes overall.



Sylvia's **"Clean As You Go"** and **"Big Sur View"** were selected for the upcoming **Government Center call to artists Juried Exhibition** by the **Arts Council for Monterey County**. Wonderful achievements, well done, Sylvia!



Window on Photographic History

Have you ever seen a cabinet card?

by Margret Cordts

Cabinet cards were very popular photography items at the turn of the twentieth century. They were 6.5 inch by 4.5 inch photos on a cardboard backing; some also had a gilt border, and the photographer's name and location.



At the height of the cabinet card's popularity in America and Europe, almost everyone wanted to have an

affordable portrait they could put into a holder on top of a cabinet, hence the name.

This "fad" began around 1866 and slowly replaced the previous fad, the carte de visite. The cabinet card reached peak popularity close to 1900, and then slowly went out of favor over the next few decades when customer interests moved towards larger prints or self-made photos and prints.



My grandfather was a photographer around the beginning of the twentieth century, and he left me these examples of cabinet cards.



Moving on Up...

Congratulations to these folks who moved up with Year End Points, Pictorial, and Nature competitions:

- *Shelley Nemeth* to A
- *Leni Hazlett* to AA
- *Rick Verbanec* to A
- *Elke Ikeda* to AA



January Is Going To Be A Creative Month!

As a result of the Holiday timing, there are two submissions due in January. Our 2017 **Black & White** competition submits on **January 1st**. No promises, but there may be a little grace period if the day starts later than usual for you. The best strategy might be to submit early before the spirits move you, so to speak. Our **Black & White** returns will be presented at our **January 18th** meeting. The Judge for this competition is *Eduardo Fuji*, who used to be a member of *PTCC* and said he was happy to give back. Eduardo has exhibited at the *CPA* and other local places and won many awards. He has a wonderful website:

• <https://eduardofujii.photography>

Our **January 4th, 2017** meeting is a **Skills Night** featuring **Macro Photography** basics presented by *Peter Monteforte*. Peter has taken some amazing macro images and I'm sure we'll all learn something on **January 4, 2017**.

The second January submission is due on **Sunday, January 29th**. This is our **Pictorial #2** which has the directed subject, "Circles." This one should wake up everyone's creative inner child.

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

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 - *Judi Clayton & Bill Shewchuk*
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 ~ Shelley Nemeth

by Carmay Knowles

Shelley Nemeth was born in Salina, Kansas, near the geographical center of the contiguous United States. She arrived in California at the tender age of three. Her Dad was a Navy pilot stationed at the Naval Air Operation Center in Los Alamitos, California, next to Long Beach, where Shelley grew up. In July 1966 she went grunion hunting on Seal Beach (a favorite Southern California pastime) and met a young man named Steve Nemeth. They got engaged while Shelley was still at Millikan High School and they married in 1968. This December they will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary!

Shelley was interested in advertising and studied business and took some art classes at Long Beach City College, but then Steve, facing the draft, joined the Army to have a better choice. He was sent to Germany, where the newlyweds spent their first two years. When they came back to Long Beach after Steve's three-year commitment, Shelley started working for J.C. Penney as an office employee. She expressed an interest in window dressing and became an assistant display designer at the large Long Beach store. Then she was promoted and Shelley got her own store to design in Buena Park.

After a while she got tired of that and went back to LBCC and got her AA in Business. Shelley had always been adept in language skills and she went to work as a script writer for educational films for industrial arts classes - instructional safety filmstrips - for a friend of hers at his little audio-visual company. Her friend took the photos and Shelley researched and wrote the scripts. This is when photography really entered her life. She helped her friend set up shoots and he taught her about the "keeper ratio" telling her he was satisfied if he kept one photo out of twenty.

At some point Shelley wanted a bigger job and applied at an in-house advertising agency for a large glazing supply company. She became a technical copywriter and wrote things like catalog descriptions, assembly instructions, brochures, etc. It was here that Shelley learned design, copy writing, typesetting, paste-up, and photography skills. She was able to assist the photographer on many projects and this is when she got her first "real" camera, a Pentax.



Shelley Nemeth



Siamese Twin Peaches



Wolf



Rusty

Images by Shelley Nemeth

In 1979, Shelley and Steve had their first child and decided that they wanted to live in a slower paced community. They made a road trip and shopped towns up and down the coast and fell in love with Pacific Grove. When Dashiell, their son, was three months old they moved to Pacific Grove where they lived for four years. When their daughter, Jillian was little they moved to Carmel where the kids grew up. Dashiell is now a very successful, single, thirty-seven year-old game designer in Los Angeles. Jillian, thirty-four, is married with two children: Cody, nine, and Hazel, almost six. She is a first grade teacher at the Captain Cooper School in Big Sur.

When the kids were little, Shelley was a volunteer parent at the Carmel schools and then they hired her as an instructional aide. After a year or so she became an administrative secretary at the district level and she worked for the Carmel School District for twenty years.

Shelley and Steve moved back to Pacific Grove after Jillian moved out, to a house that was over a hundred years old. Steve is a do-it-yourselfer, but the house needed more than they had to give, so four years ago they moved up to Skyline Forest. In her spare time Shelley knits additively, volunteers at her grandkids' school twice weekly, and works at the Pacific Grove Library twelve hours a week (that also started as a volunteer gig, but then they hired her). She says she's always been able to find ways to express her creativity in any job.

Shelley said her Dad brought cameras home from Japan in WW II and the Korean conflict, and that her two brothers are both talented photographers, one a professional. She's been her family's photographer on vacations and special occasions, but she wanted to do more. A few years ago, after seeing an article in *The Herald* about *Padre Trails Camera Club's* 2011 field trip to Fort Ord, Shelley looked into the club and joined about four years ago. When she first started she felt very timid, but the club has definitely raised her confidence about her photography skills and now she just goes for it. Shelley says the support, inspiration and camaraderie the club provides are very important and exactly what she was hoping for. Last year Shelley was our Treasurer and now she is our Secretary. PTCC is lucky!



Volunteers Needed!

Mixed Competition Chair:

B&W, PJ, Creative, Travel

The Mixed Competition Chair position is currently vacant. *John Drum*, who is Vice President and Nature Competition Chair, is filling in temporarily, but the Club needs a dedicated Chair to take over. Unlimited advice, help and reassurance during the learning process will be readily available.

Here are the basic duties:

- Contact the judge already named for this competition, clarify his/her understanding of the process, dates and sequence of events and follow up to ensure our schedule is met.
- Let the judge know when all images have been sent to the Drop Box by the Image Filters and "invite" the judge to allow access. This is a very simple process, easily mastered.
- Receive the judge's comments and awards via return e-mail and send the winning image information via e-mail to: The Awards Chair (*Chris Johnson*), the Point Chair (*Carol Fuessenich*), the Public Site Webmaster (*Jared Ikeda*).
- Send the winning images via e-mail to *Chris* (for awards) and *Jared* (for website). Send the judge's bio and comments in editable form via e-mail to *Jared*, also for the site.
- Prepare the Returns show and conduct the program on returns night.

There are only four Mixed competitions during the year making this a very manageable task. Let *Ken* know if you're willing to step up. Thanks!

Steve Zmak Telecast

A new *Steve Zmak* West Coast Focus telecast is airing on **Thursday, December 8th**. It will be about **Camera Clubs on the Central Coast** and Steve's guests will be Les Ellis of Independent Photographers, Richard Cannon of ImageMakers, and Ken Jones of Padre Trails Camera Club, plus a recorded interview with Christine Holding for Monterey Photography (Mo-Pho) on Facebook. You can see previous telecasts at: <http://stevezmak.com/west-coast-focus-tv/>.

Many Thanks

Thanks to *Marget Cordts* for her cabinet card article, to *Judi Clayton* and *Carol Silveira* for providing the tasty snacks at our November meetings, and thanks again to *Shelley Nemeth* for her proofreading expertise. You are all appreciated!

Bits & Pixels Contributors:

Our *Bits & Pixels* Newsletter needs contributors to help spread the load of creating this successful and well received letter each month. More voices in the mix will not only make creating the newsletter easier but will allow the newsletter to reflect more of the Club's ideas on its pages. *Bits & Pixels* needs contributors who are willing to:

- Write a review of the past month's highlights and events.
- Write a preview of the month to come.
- Provide input about cool places to photograph, including images, impressions and directions, if required.
- Provide technical tips & tricks that will be useful to all members, including equipment, techniques, post work, etc.

The deadline for contributions to *Bits & Pixels* is the 20th of the month. Please consider adding your talents to the pages of our outstanding newsletter.

Doug Steakley Presentation

"Winter in Yellowstone" with *Doug Steakley*

Every winter, Doug takes a small group to Yellowstone Park for photography. During this presentation, he'll share his photography and experiences from these winter tours. "Winter is a very special time to visit Yellowstone—there are far fewer people than in the busy summer months and the winter environment is quiet and intimate. We visit the wide open Lamar Valley, which has been called the Serengeti of the American West, and is home to several wolf packs, coyotes, elk and bison. We then move south to the Old Faithful area, visiting many hot springs and geysers along the way. Winter is also the time when the bison gather around the hot springs and are covered with frost in the cold early morning hours. Bald eagles are easy to spot among the trees along the Firehole and Madison rivers and there are always unexpected opportunities." Doug's upcoming "Winter in Yellowstone" tour for January 16-22, 2017 is full, but he is making a waiting list for his 2018 tour.



Doug's presentation is **Friday, December 2nd, 2016, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM** at the Pacific Grove Public Library, 550 Central Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA. Suggested donation \$10, free to Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library.

November Review

The main event last month was the Club's year-end party, which officially concluded our 2015-16 year with the installation of officers and Image of the Year awards. The



Cath, Shelley, Ken, and John
Party images by Jared Ikeda

officers in place for the 2016-17 Club year are: **Ken Jones, President, John Drum, Vice President, Shelley Nemeth, Secretary and Cath Tandler-Valencia, Treasurer.**

The images in contention for *Image of the Year* are all the images, which have placed in our monthly competitions during the year. Congratulations to all the winners! The results of this final judging, accomplished this year by **Rick Murai, Assistant Director of the Center for Photographic Art in Carmel**, along with pictures from the dinner and links to the *Image of the Year* winners by group, may be found on our website's History page at: <http://www.padretrailsc.org/ptcc/ptchistory.html>.

A very special thanks to all who helped make the night a success. We had an abundance of delicious food. Particular thanks go to **Carol Fuessenich** for expertly overseeing the myriad details that made the night a success and to **Chris Johnson** for creating all the unique award certificates and adding to the decor and charm of the night by her display of small prints of all the 2015-16 winning images which surrounded the tables and



The laden buffet table



Carol and Chris chat with Brooks Leffler

gave everyone a pleasant stroll down memory lane.

Our regular meeting on November 2nd was taken up by last-minute discussions about the party and the three PTCC exhibits on our horizon; two in the December/January period at **Mundos Cafe** in Monterey and a large show at **Avery Gallery** in Seaside coming up in May of 2017.

The returns of our 2017 Nature #1 competition were presented at our November 16th regular meeting. These winners along with the comments of our judge, **Greg Edwards**, may be viewed in the **Image Gallery** section of our website.



2016 Sharon Blaziek Award to Silke Laetz

The 2016 Sharon Blaziek Award recognizes **Silke Laetz** for the creative initiative she has displayed throughout her tenure as board member and competition judge coordinator. Silke has made vital contributions to all facets of the Club's operation. Most significantly, by personally bringing the Club's mission to the local professional photographic community. *Padre Trails* now enjoys a strong and expanding group of qualified judges who are familiar with our mission and who provide consistently high quality technical and artistic feedback to our members. Silke has provided a proven model that, if followed, will help insure we continue to benefit from the good work she has done for *Padre Trails Camera Club*. Thank you, Silke!



Silke and Ken
by Jared Ikeda

Editor's Corner

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by. Last December we had just put out the second issue of *Bits & Pixels*. Now we're into our second volume. This year we achieved recognition by tying for **Best Banner** in the **PSA Newsletter Contest** and receiving many wonderful compliments from **PTCC** members and other community readers. The one that touched me the most came from **Steve Myrick**: "I have enjoyed every copy ... and I especially enjoy the graphic design of each newsletter. Your attention to typeface, composition, treatment of photos and layout is exceptional. I can tell you that visually, this is one of the finest newsletters I receive ..." I'm so sorry that we're losing **Myrick Photographic** at the end of the month, but I hope Steve will find time to join **PTCC** once he's retired.

As we enter the Holiday season, I echo Ken's thoughts. I hope that our nation can find a way to end distrust and hatred of others, to welcome discussion, to find respect and honor in our discourse, and to have truth matter. However you celebrate, may this season bring you and yours **Peace, Joy and Contentment**.

~ Happy Holidays, everyone!

Carmay Knowles, Editor



Please send your comments, suggestions, images and photographic news items to info@padretrailsc.org, or by clicking on "Letters to the Editor" at the bottom of our *Bits & Pixels* Newsletter website page.