

Bits & Pixels

February 2017



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

www.padretrailsc.org

January 22nd Field Trip to Salinas and Beyond

What we feared would be a rain-drenched slog turned out to be a beautiful day for photography on Sunday, January 22nd for our trip to Salinas. The early birder's feathers got pretty wet, but after about 8:30 AM the rain tapered off and was over completely for us by 9:00 AM. Twenty-four members took part in the hunt for the winning image in our eight categories: *Surprising Architectural Detail*, *The Beautiful High School Building*, *The Spirit of Agriculture*, *The Contrast of Old and New*, *The Railroad Depot and Grounds*, *Main Street Characters*, *Street Art and Furniture*, and the open category of *Photographer's Choice*.

At noon, we gathered at **Monterey Coast Brewery** right downtown and had a nice lunch. Brooks took a group shot with his drone, which waited patiently on the table for orders to launch that never came. After lunch we geared up again and forged ahead to the categories still on our "Needed" list. A fun day.

The judge for this year's field trip is **PTCC Pro Member David Gubernick**. David has given several presentations to the Club and has judged previous competitions. His comments and suggestions are always helpful. Members' images, one per category, need to be submitted no later than **Sunday, February 26th**, with the results scheduled to be presented at our regular meeting on **March 15th**. The winning images will be posted to our website soon thereafter.

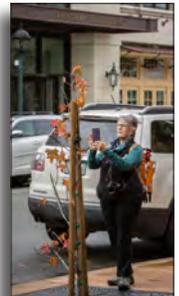
Images from previous field trips and other outings can be seen at our website's "In the Field" section.

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Clockwise from top left: Brooks Leffler by Shelley Nemeth; Karen Schofield by Ken Jones; Janet Beaty by Margret Cordts; abstract of Jeff Hobbs & Chris Johnson, and Karen Schofield standing on car by Ken Jones; Bill Shewchuk by Karen Schofield; unidentified photographers by Margaret Cordts. Center: the lunch crowd by Ken Jones.



Below: Drone's eye view of the lunch table folks by Brooks Leffler



Coming up in February

At our **February 1st** meeting our special guest will be *Brian Taylor, Executive Director of the Center for Photographic Art*. Brian has



Brian Taylor

been a Professor of Photography at San Jose State University for over 20 years and on February 1st he'll be sharing his thoughts and insights into photojournalism.

Brian's artwork explores historic photographic processes, has been exhibited internationally and is included in the permanent collections of the *Bibliothèque Nationale*, Paris; the *Victoria and*

Albert Museum, London; and the *International Museum of Photography* at the *George Eastman House*, Rochester, NY. Don't miss this meeting!

Check out Brian's stunning art at:

<http://www.briantaylorphotography.com>

On **Wednesday, February 15th**, we'll see the returns of our *Pictorial #2* competition, a "Directed" competition as we've done in the past for other directed pictorials such as *Negative Space* and *Leading Lines*. It will be fun to see how our members interpreted the circular graphic form.

On **Saturday, February 25th**, we'll be taking down our prints at *Mundos Cafe* in Monterey. The two exhibits there have been a good learning experience for participating members and a **big** thank you goes to *Chester Ng* and the *Image Makers* for opening this space for us.

Members' 2017 Field Trip to Salinas images submit by **Sunday, February 26th**. See the write up about our field trip on page one.



Photographic Society of America

Since its inception in 1948, *Padre Trails Camera Club* has been a member of the *PSA, Photographic Society of America*. The Club receives a copy of the monthly *PSA Journal*, which is brought to meetings and made available for any member to borrow, read and return. PSA is a worldwide organization for anyone interested in photography. The many benefits of individual membership include free online photo courses, study groups, image evaluation services, online photo galleries, workshops, outings and competitions. **February 25th** is the deadline for **Individual Creative** and **Individual Portrait** competitions. For more info on the PSA, membership, dues and rates, visit the PSA website: www.psa-photo.org.



My Two Bits ... Moving on Up: The Group AAA Engine

Participation by AAA members in our recent *Black & White* competition showed a very encouraging uptick from 2017's first two competitions. Fifteen images were submitted from AAA to the *Black & White* versus a total of only 15 images submitted for *Pictorial #1* and *Nature #1* this year combined. This spike is indeed encouraging, but it is still a very low level of participation when you consider that, potentially, a total of over 40 images could be submitted from the AAA shooters.

There are very solid photographers in the AAA group and we need to see more of their images. Here's the thing: when only a few images are submitted, the winning places recognized are reduced and points that could be awarded are not. More members submitting gives everyone in the group a better chance of earning points and moving up. I know that winning points is not the only reason for being in the Club, but submitting your images to competitions gives you the benefit of our judges' comments and increases your confidence in your own photographic ability. AAA members, let's see more images!

~ Take your lens cap off.

Ken Jones

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 ~ Ken Jones

by Carmay Knowles

Ken Jones is a bona fide native Californian, born in Long Beach where he lived and went to school through a year at Long Beach City College. He then went to the Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He majored in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations and graduated with a B.S. in 1968. Just after graduation, Ken married Anne, whom he had met in Fall of 1966 on the South West Chief when they were both on the train returning to college after Thanksgiving break. They got engaged within a year and married in Orange County in June, 1968.

Ken was hired by the J.C. Penney company, but worked for them for less than a year as he was going to be drafted. Instead, he joined the Air Force in late 1968, doing his basic training in San Antonio, Texas, before receiving orders to report to the Pentagon. Ken worked for the Deputy Chief of Staff, Research and Development, and served until 1972. He and Anne lived in a brownstone in Arlington, Virginia for two years, then moved to Alexandria, where their daughter, Nora, was born in 1972.

After his discharge, Ken and Anne moved back to Southern California, buying a townhouse in Fountain Valley, and he went back to work for J.C. Penney where he was a senior merchandise manager. Ken said that he learned most of his people skills in his jobs at the Air Force, where he ran the personnel side of the department he was in, and at Penney's.

Ken left Penney's and went back to Orange Coast College for an Associate's Degree in Energy Engineering. He worked as energy auditor for the California Schools and Hospitals energy conservation program until 1985, when he went to work for Rockwell International in Seal Beach. Ken worked in Rockwell's facilities and plant operations department until his retirement in 2000.

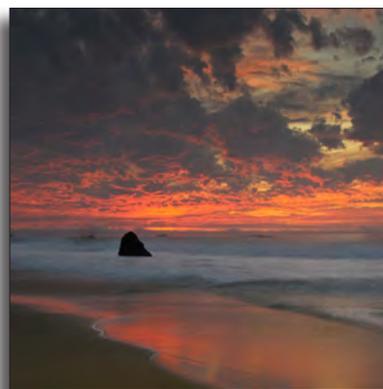
In 1986 Ken and Anne moved from the Fountain Valley townhouse into a larger home in Westminster. In 1999 they took a vacation to California's historic Gold Country which eventually led them through the Sacramento Delta area and out to the coast.



Ken Jones by Ken Kramer



Silver Wake on Lake McDonald



Garrapata Fire Sunset



Marbled Godwit Pair
Images by Ken Jones

They spent the last night before heading back home to Orange County in Pacific Grove – and they loved it! A few months later they came back to P.G. for Thanksgiving and found they still loved the town. So much so that on the Wednesday following Thanksgiving, they made an offer on their “Dream House” which was accepted. They put their Orange County house up for sale and Ken submitted his retirement paperwork. They’ve lived in their P.G. dream house ever since.

Ken's paternal grandfather was an avid photographer. Going over to Grampa Jones' house for a slide show was a family tradition.

Photography was always around when Ken was growing up and Grampa took him on several photo shoots. In high school, Ken took photo classes and learned some of the technical aspects like how to work with depth of field, etc., but not so much about the artistic side. Ken said he always took a lot of pictures on trips and that when Nora was born he “took about 1.3 billion pics of her.”

Ken and Anne hadn't been in Pacific Grove very long when they saw an article in the Monterey Herald about a Padre Trails Camera Club field trip. They decided to check it out. They both joined in 2001 and were made to feel very welcome by the members and especially by then president Sharon Blaziek. Ken served as Program Chair for a while and Anne was the Awards Chair for a time. Anne has moved on to other creative interests and is heavy into design and card making now.

Ken was elected president in the 2005-6 Club Year and is now in his twelfth year in that role. He attributes *PTCC's* current vitality to its growing membership, the talented volunteers who form the board and make things happen, and an incredible level of creative energy throughout. Ken expressed that leading *PTCC* is a labor of love for him. “It's a full time job sometimes, but to see the Club succeed as a whole and its members grow and succeed individually is very satisfying.”

Thank you, Ken!



**Central Coast Style:
The Constructed Environment
Walter Lee Avery Art Gallery, Seaside
May 1 ~ June 30, 2017**

Work is progressing as we prepare for the largest print exhibition ever mounted by members of *Padre Trails Camera Club*. Some members have been through the process

before, but many are learning as they go what it takes to have their selected images printed and framed for the gallery. Our target is to have 70 framed prints ready by April. The images in this exhibit will be an eclectic interpretation of the general theme of the



Avery Gallery images by Ken Jones

show which will encompass man-made structures that particularly define the unique personality of California's Central Coast. So far, 27 members are participating, most with two prints. A major recruitment effort is underway to increase that number by another ten or fifteen members. A one-on-one mentoring program is in place to help members through the process. This exhibit is an



incredible opportunity for members of *Padre Trails* to show their stuff in a big way and the members who share this experience will come away with a new confidence in their artist's eye and their photographic talents. We can't wait!



Congratulations

Dominique Gallet moved up to the **A Group** with her **Year End Points**. We missed recognizing Dominique's accomplishment in the December issue, so apologize for the oversight. *Dominique Gallet* is now on the "A" list!

Welcome

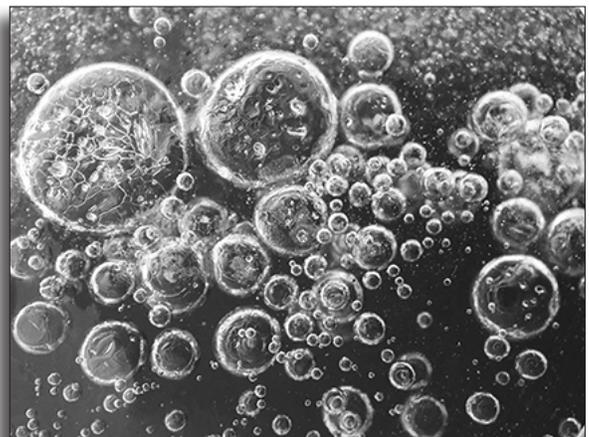
A warm welcome to our newest members: *Tom McMillin, Jim Ortize, and Steve Myrick!* Tom joined us in December and promptly won first place in the **AAA Group** for our *Black & White* competition with his wonderful "Boy at Aquarium" image. Jim is a friend of *Karen Schofield's*, and almost everyone knows Steve, owner of *Myrick Photographic* - the best camera store in Monterey - who is a long time friend of *PTCC* and now retired. We welcome you all to the Club and look forward to seeing you and your images.



My Favorite Photo

by Bill Shewchuk

I was quite inspired by *Steve Zmak's* show at the *Pacific Grove Art Center*. You must see it, if you haven't yet, and have been on the lookout for interesting macro photography opportunities. While on a church retreat to Calvin Crest, about 50 miles south of Yosemite, I was exploring the grounds and came upon a frozen lake where I noticed frozen bubbles near the surface. Using my iPhone 6 Plus and Moment macro lens, I captured numerous



Photograph by Bill Shewchuk

images. I cropped one on my phone, and using the Snapseed app, did minor tuning and sharpening adjustments, then used the *Black & White* filter, film option, to end up with the image above. It was recently selected as the image of the week in the Monterey Photography (Mo-Pho) Facebook Group. By the way, if you haven't joined the 1400+ members, you should consider doing so. It is a great opportunity to share your favorites and view some amazing photos from others that share your passion for photography.



Look! Up In The Sky!

Part of our Open Projector night at our **March 1st** meeting will be a special presentation by *Joel Gambord* and *Brooks Leffler* on the ins and outs of drone photography and the rules of the road for responsible flying camera operation. This new photographic platform opens up a fresh perspective, allowing the photographer to go places inaccessible in times past. (Well, except for Kite Aerial Photography, which paved the way.) There's more to it than meets the eye and their numbers are growing. *PTCC* firmly supports the responsible operation of this new platform and we look forward to the program by these two seasoned pilots.



Photo of Brooks Leffler and his drone by Karen Schofield



Steve Zmak

Artist Talk at PG Art Center

On **Saturday, February 4th, 2017**, photographer *Steve Zmak* will be in the Gallery at the *Pacific Grove Art Center* to talk about how his exhibit, *Expressions of Infinity*, was created, both artistically and technically. He will also talk about how the portfolio was developed into a science fiction narrative and have a Q&A. Steve's images in this exhibit, which runs through **February 23, 2017**, are not to be missed!



January Review

Our January 4th meeting was to have been a **Skills Night** featuring *Peter Monteforte* and the essentials of macro photography. Peter's macro work is spectacular and we were all disappointed to learn that Peter, along with throngs of other Peninsula residents, had fallen victim to this year's miserable bug. We look forward to seeing Peter's work and learning his techniques in the future.

This first January meeting became an **Open Projector** and print sharing night. As it turned out, the meeting overflowed with member print contributions from *Rick Verbanec*, *Karen Schofield*, and *Brooks Leffler* who treated us to a mini-demo of his new DJi Maverick drone. Many of these prints were ready in preparation for the January 14th swap-out of prints at *Mundos Cafe* in Monterey. We also enjoyed a too short **Fun With Halloween** show by *Carol Silveira* which had also been rescheduled due to technical difficulties. Additional projected treats were provided by *Jeff Hobbs* who shared amazing battle and birth photos of elephant seals at San Simeon, *Bill Shewchuk* showed his iPhone shots, *Margret Cordts* presented bees, and we saw beautiful panoramas from *Jerry Gifford*.

On January 18th we viewed the returns of our **Black & White** competition, judged by *Eduardo Fujii*. Eduardo's comments were extremely comprehensive and were well received by the group. The majority of images submitted to this competition from all groups may be seen on our Facebook page and the winners have been posted to our website. This year's **B&W** really brought out the artist in everyone.



Editor's Corner

It's February, already?! Well, since this is the month for Valentine's Day, I hope we can all get into the spirit of loving one another -- or at least being kind and accepting -- and not just for one day. *PTCC* welcomed me the first time I came to a meeting. I joined a little over two years ago and I really look forward to seeing everyone at our twice-a-month meetings, even when the evening doesn't go exactly as planned. I'm delighted that we have so many new members and I look forward to getting to know each of you through your images.

~ Happy capturing, everyone!

Carmay Knowles, Editor

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