

Bits & Pixels

July 2017

Volume 2, Number 10



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

www.padretrailscc.org

Shots and Spots

by Chris Johnson

I was pulling weeds and this jumping spider was walking on the ground, I ran inside and grabbed a tupperware and scooped him up and put a lid on it. While I was finishing with the weeds, I was thinking of how I wanted to photograph him.



I have a tabletop set-up that has a white plastic background. I had heard of people putting critters in the refrigerator for a few minutes so they are a little subdued when you take them out. I put him in the refrigerator and set up my background and camera, and figured out where to put him to focus. I used my 105 macro on a tripod. I took him out of the refrigerator and grabbed some chopsticks to pull him out and put him on the white background. The first shot is of him on the white background. He

was very cooperative. The second shot is of him on the



chopstick, then I got a rock and prodded him to get on top. I didn't like that one.



Then I grabbed some little pieces of wood, but I didn't like the white background.



So, then I put another piece of wood behind him and got the shot I liked. The last shot

is an extreme closeup of his eyes, where you can see the reflection of the back of my house! After I was done, I put him back down and he went on his merry way.



Jumping Spider - Images by Chris Johnson



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June Review

by Ken Jones

Board meeting - June 3rd: The *PTCC Board* met on Saturday, June 3rd to review our post-exhibition financial situation, begin the planning phases for next year and work out some of the open issues in the competition process. Full minutes of the meeting can be found on our website in *Member Resources*.

A few items of note: Three of the five currently unfilled slots for Competition Chair — The “Mixed” categories of **B&W**, **Creative**, **Photojournalism (PJ)**, **Travel** and our **Field Trip** were filled. *Carmay Knowles* agreed to chair next year’s **B&W** and **Creative** competitions and *Margret Cordts* agreed to chair next year’s **Competitive Field Trip**. Work was started to find volunteers for the **PJ** and **Travel** competitions.

The Board agreed to implement an online dues payment plan utilizing **PayPal** to give members the option of paying their new or renewal dues by credit or debit card or with their existing PayPal account if they have one (checks will still be accepted). A new online membership application has also been developed and the online application and payment option is available now for new members.

Club meeting - June 7th - Election of Officers

Nominating committee chair, *Carol Silveira*, presented the slate of officer candidates to the members present. There being only one candidate for each of the four officer positions, it was moved and seconded that the slate be accepted by acclamation. Club officers for the 2017-2018 Club Year are:

President: Ken Jones

Vice President: Bill Shewchuk

Secretary: Shelley Nemeth

Treasurer: Cath Tendler-Valencia



Rick Murai at PTCC on June 7 - Images by Ken Jones

The highlight of the evening was a special presentation by *Rick Murai*, Assistant Director of the *Center for Photographic Art*. Rick shared his life and the experiences in photography gained from his extensive travels to places like Angkor Wat, Bhutan, Oaxaca, Rapa Nui and Tibet. Rick began his career in photography as a photo journalist, worked his way into teaching for over

30 years, eventually moving into his current position at CPA.

You can read about Rick and his photography at: www.richardmurai.com/the-photographer.

Thank you, Rick!



Club meeting - June 21

Our second meeting in June brought the returns of our 2017 **Creative** competition. Fifty-one images were submitted from our three competition level groups. There was some truly stunning work this time, from all groups. This year’s **Creative** was judged by long-time *PTCC* friend, *Meredith Mullins*. Meredith’s **Artist’s Statement** from her section of the *Center for Photographic Art’s* website states:

“I am not myself unless I am making photographs.

My images follow many paths—from Paris street photography, to travel moments in the far corners of the world, to the underwater world of free floating subjects that defy gravity (and rulebooks), to my most recent series of performers in the circus arts. The common theme of the images? They challenge the normal rules of movement, mass, and matter ... and especially the concepts of time.”

Can you think of a better judge’s mindset for this category? This simply stated philosophy translated well into Meredith’s astute and most helpful comments about our images. While Meredith calls Paris her home, she still has a house in Pacific Grove and will be visiting this summer. Maybe she’ll be able to come to a meeting so we can all meet this extraordinary photographer. Thank you, Meredith!



Photo Event Calendar

For local photo events go to:

<http://mpenphotoevents.blogspot.com>

July 16th

Last Day of **Ted Orland’s “Orlandia”**

David Bayles, Curator

Center for Photographic Art
Sunset Center

San Carlos + 9th Avenue
Carmel-by-the-Sea

Backing Up Vacation Photos - Double-up Everything!

by Margret Cordts and Doug Rothnie

In the last issue of *Bits and Pixels* we mentioned that we would begin to address backing up your backup. The goal for this is to make sure that a copy exists somewhere in a separate location in case something disastrous, like fire or flood, destroys the home backup. The cloud solution is very desirable because it does just that—your backup storage is in a physically separate location and, better yet, the cloud company does its own backup of your backup (photos). Alternatively, accomplishing this goal on your own without using the cloud, you might use hard drives and place one drive in a far away location like your daughter's home in a different state. However, creating and rotating these remote copies can be an elaborate procedure.

Just thinking about these complications is exhausting. Let's take a detour to answer the question, "Should I backup my SD (Secure Digital) and CF (Compact Flash) camera memory cards for my digital single lens reflex (DSLR) camera?" If you have never experienced a failed SD or CF card, you might not feel a necessity to do that. However, losing vacation photos may be distressing, so we offer here some choices to protect your work:

1. Bring multiple small memory (16 gigabyte) cards, use each card once, and never reformat or delete images from any card. They are relatively inexpensive.
2. Bring a laptop (or netbook) and let the laptop's hard drive be your backup. Do a download daily, in case the camera is stolen. This way you can also view your images and improve your skills.
3. Bring a laptop and a small portable 1–2 terabyte (TB) hard drive. You can now back up your backup of the original cards to reuse them.
4. Use a *Western Digital 2 TB* SD memory card backup drive that doesn't require a computer, or a generic portable memory card backup storage device like Nexto or Sanho. Plug your memory cards into these devices regularly to download and back up your work.
5. Use your hotel business center or an internet café to back up your photos to online sites like *Flickr*, *Dropbox*, *iCloud*, *Google Drive*, or *Amazon Drive* for free or nominal costs. For this approach you will need WiFi access. This option is particularly desirable if you are at risk of losing your camera bag.
6. Smart phone backup in your home country is usually available with your regular data plan. With *iCloud* storage and WiFi, back up is automatic.

Some things that might affect your decision:

- a desire to view your photos to improve your skills,
- luggage weight or size restrictions,
- expense,
- battery life,
- likely WiFi access.

Don't forget to bring a strong plastic bag or a *Pelican* memory card case to protect the SD and/or CF cards from moisture.

There are also many resources online that offer great advice. Even *TripAdvisor* forums have covered this topic. Go to:

<https://www.tripadvisor.com/ForumHome> and select *Travel Gadgets and Gear*, then search for "photo backups," and sort by *Post Date* to get the most current suggestions. Another useful site is *The Ultimate Vacation Photo Backup System* at: <http://triphackr.com/the-ultimate-vacation-photo-backup-system/>.

If all else fails, check online for data recovery sites.



Mark Your Calendars!

~ Monterey County Fair ~

August 31st - September 4th

• Photography (Visual Arts) entry forms are due by mail or online **July 31st**

• Entry delivery is **August 19th**

• Entry release is **September 5th**

Go to: http://www.montereycountyfair.com/pdf/2016/entry/visual_arts_book.pdf

Click on the **green** Fair Info button, then **More Info** in the **orange** Exhibits box, then the fourth line down: Exhibits/Non-Livestock Entry Guidebook. Photography is on page 14.

~ FOTOCLOVE 2017 ~

November 3 - 5, 2017



An entire weekend of photographic inspiration at the **Marriot Pleasanton**
11950 Dublin Canyon Road,
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Advance registration is \$80 per person for the full weekend.

Fotoclave is sponsored by the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs. Find more info at: <http://fotoclave.slickpic.com/>





by Carol Fuessenich

Do you have an evening with some time on your hands? Do you need a break from going out and taking photographs? Perhaps its time to sit back, relax, and peruse the *PSA* website: psa-photo.org

This month the opening page of the *PSA* website has photos and links to some wonderful pictures! There are images from the **Nature Division Interclub Round 2 Competition**: see what a bat looks like from underneath as it flies, what polar bears look like playing in the snow, and see bison struggling to walk through the snow.

Then there is the May print of the month and a color and mono gallery. There are *PTD* (Photo Travel Division) interclub round three photos and round four for the *PPD* (Pictorial Print Division) pictures. And, finally there is the 2017 Wisconsin Club Showcase. Enjoy and be inspired for the next time you go out with your camera.



Padre Trails Camera Club

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

www.padretrailscc.org

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2016-2017 Officers:

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



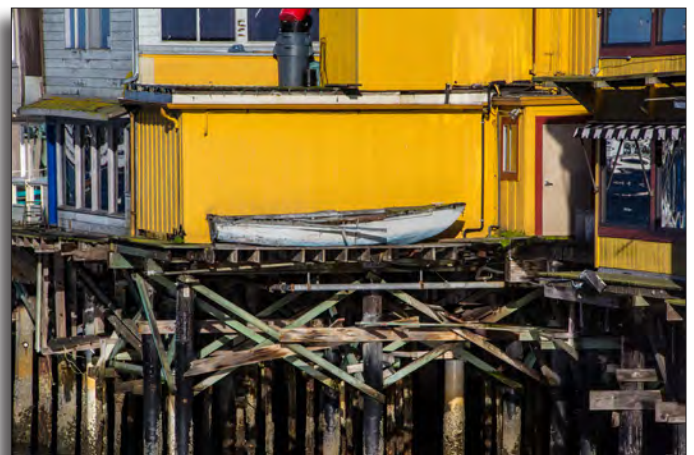
Winning Photos

Just a couple weeks ago I heard about, and thus entered, the *Carmel Valley Garden Show Photography Contest*. Last summer, at the peak of tomato season, I took the camera into my garden and gathered a platter of tomatoes. It's the reason to grow so many heirloom tomatoes — all the different colors, shapes and flavors are irresistible, even before they make it into the kitchen. Lo and behold, this pic was awarded a blue ribbon in the "Edibles" category, and was sold! That's a very exciting thing!
Joni Zabala



Tomato Platter - Image by Joni Zabala

Bill Shewchuk reports that his image — "*Monterey Wharf*" — which was in our Avery Gallery Show, was chosen for the *Arts Council for Monterey County's 2018 Fine Art* calendar. Congratulations!



Monterey Wharf - Image by Bill Shewchuk



July Look Ahead

by Ken Jones

We'll begin the month at our **July 5th** meeting with a **Skills Night** featuring **Brooks Leffler** and the subject of capturing the power of "Light and Shadow" in our photography. There may be additional topics covered on the 5th, so this should be a very interesting evening. Thank you, Brooks, for sharing your talents and insights.

Our second meeting of the month, on July 19th, will feature the returns of our **Pictorial #3** (Cell Phone) competition. **Truman Holtzclaw** will be the judge for this competition and we really look forward to his comments. Only images taken by a cell phone are eligible for submission in this category. The cell phone, its capabilities, camera quality, and range of developing post-processing applications have elevated the "snapshot" to a new level. The objective of making our third pictorial competition of 2017 a totally "Cell Phone" category was to spotlight all the capabilities of this "in everybody's pocket" photographic tool. While still a "Pictorial" competition, all smart phone App effects are Okay. Should be interesting.



Black Ranch BBQ & Group Shoot Saturday, July 15th

We're having a **Group Shoot** and summer picnic at **Jane Black's** home on San Benancio Road on **Saturday, July 15, 2017**. A full event fact sheet has been sent to all members. The general timing of the day will have us arriving around noon to get the lay of the land and explore the property. The



grills will fire up around **2:00 PM** and we'll gather for burgers and potluck sides about **2:30**. We're welcome to stay as long as we like, but around **5:00 PM** the light goes and the temperature drops. Please mark your calendar now.



Welcome to Our Newest Members

In June, three new members joined us: **Lillie Grossman**, **Jim Summers**, and **Bill Brown**. We extend a warm **PTCC** welcome to you all. We're looking forward to seeing your images, so don't be shy about submitting to the next competition or to our newsletter!



My Two Bits...

A Changing of the Guard

by Ken Jones

At our first meeting in June, members elected the officers for our 2017-2018 Club Year. While most of the officer positions remained unchanged for next year, our **Vice President, John Drum**, decided not to run for a second term. **Bill Shewchuk** will take over the Vice President's role on October 1st. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank John for his year as VP and for the effort he puts into making **PTCC** run smoothly. John will continue in the position of **Nature Competition Chair** and his energy and judgment will continue to keep **PTCC** going. Thank you, John!

~ Take your lens cap off.



Upcoming Submission Dates

- Midnight, **Sunday, July 30th**, **Nature #3** - Open (PSA compliant)



Editor's Corner

Thank you to all the folks who stepped up and submitted photos this month! I actually have a few that didn't fit in this issue, so look for them in August! Please don't be shy about submitting your photos, and be sure to tell the story behind the shot! Where were you, what time of day was it, why did you decide to take that shot, what spoke to you about the subject or the scene, did you use a special camera or technique? Don't worry about writing it perfectly—if you can, that's great, but if not, that's what editors are for. And, you can just send the text in the body of the email— I'd actually prefer that text not be in a separate app. Attach your image(s) as you would for competition. Please start the email subject line with: B&P:(Month)_____.

In general, submissionsto **B&P** — photographic news, stories and images — are due by the **20th** of the month for the following month's newsletter— so July 20th for the August issue. However, because of vacation schedules, submissions for the September newsletter are due on **August 15th**.

~ Happy capturing, everyone!

Carmay Knowles, Editor

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