

Bits & Pixels

March 2018

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

www.padretrailsc.org

Monterey Photo Contest

by Lillie Grossman

Since this contest was mentioned in *Bits & Pixels*, I thought it would be fun to enter. The rules required all images to be shot within the limits of the City of Monterey. The categories for the images were: Environment, Architecture, and Culture and Community. Thirty-seven photographers submitted 113 images of beautiful Monterey and the Monterey Bay.

The winners were announced on February 6th, 2018 and I was thrilled to find my name among the winning photographers. We earned an invitation to be recognized at a Monterey City Council meeting and have our picture taken with the Council members.



Winners of the Monterey Photo Contest with Monterey City Council members

A show of all the submitted images is at the new Monterey Conference Center, and will be in the *Alvarado Gallery* there until **April 25th, 2018**. My winning image, an interior shot of the San Carlos Cathedral taken on Christmas Eve with a magnificent bank of red poinsettias gracing the alter, was awarded 1st place by the professional judges.



Lillie Grossman's winning image - "Chapel"

Upcoming Submission Dates

- **Midnight, Sunday, March 25** — Photojournalism
- **Midnight, Sunday, April 29th** — B&W #2 - Architecture

Cannery Row Group Shoot: Sunday, March 18th

by Ken Jones

On **Sunday, March 18th**, PTCC members are heading to Cannery Row for a **Group Shoot**. Unlike our annual competitive field trip, there are no categories, limitations or judging. It's strictly for the fun of it. **Group Shoots** are all about learning from other Club members in a field setting. It's stimulating to see how other photographers set up for a shot, what equipment they bring (or don't bring), and watch experienced shooters work a subject. An event fact sheet has been sent to members and is posted at our website in Member Resources/Special Events. Here are the basics: The date of the shoot is **Sunday, March 18th**, morning or afternoon or both.

An optional lunch will be at **Noon** at **Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.** There's no fixed price, so participants may order from the regular menu as desired. The restaurant will provide one ticket per table as did the Running Iron in Carmel Valley. We have two seating options, in or out, depending on the weather. The **RSVP** for lunch is part of the required event waiver form. The full fact sheet and waiver form are in the Member Resources section of our website, under Special Events. If you've not eaten at Bubba Gump's in a while, you'll be surprised how good the food is.

Participating members who wish to may send in their top 10 images from the day to be presented at our **May 2nd** meeting. Images should be received by **Sunday, April 15th**.



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February Review

by Ken Jones

We packed a lot of activity into the shortest month of the year. At our February 7th meeting, Pro Member **Greg Magee** shared his experiences photographing nature very close to home and spoke about the techniques he uses to blend photography into a true art form. The only mark on the evening came when our projector decided no longer to send red tones to the screen. Greg handled the situation admirably, understanding that these things happen and urging us to use our imagination to visualize the vivid and rich colors of his images. See Greg's spectacular images at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/gjmphotos> and <http://www.wildcentralcoast.com>. We invited Greg to return for a second take, with a full spectrum display.

The PTCC Board met on Sunday, February 11th to review overall Club operations and several of the procedures in place for managing important functions. Details were finalized for our **March Group Shoot** to Cannery Row. The details are on page one. The Board also discussed the failure of our projector during Greg Magee's February 7th presentation. While the problem was easily corrected with a new cable, the Board is looking into current products that might provide higher quality projection results.

We met again on February 21st and saw the returns of our **Pictorial #2**, a directed competition featuring the color **red**. Some absolutely amazing images came from all groups. The judge, **Dan Danbom**, was tough but fair. It's always a gut-check to hear a professional photographer comment on one's images, but that's the real teaching moment. Most of the images submitted to this competition have been posted to our Facebook page. The winning images are on page five of this newsletter and on our Website: <http://www.padretrailsc.org/ptcc/gallery.html>

The Club's "*Point of View*" print exhibit at the **Pacific Grove Art Center** ended on Thursday, February 22nd. The exhibit received many good comments and reviews, and three of our members sold prints: **Jean Wells**, **Chris Johnson**, and **Joel Gambord**. Jean even had a repeat sale!

In February we submitted our Carmel Valley competitive field trip images. The returns of this club outing will be seen at our regular meeting on **March 21st**, judged by **Doug Steakley**.

President's Message

My Two Bits

March marks the halfway point in our 2018 Club Year and I'm very happy with the way the year has progressed so far. We've seen some extraordinary images, conducted another successful print donation and raffle benefitting the **Food Bank of Monterey County**, and learned from the thoughtful critiques given by judges **Chris Cassel**, **Tom Hierl**, **Richard Cannon**, and **Dan Danbom**. Members held a successful print exhibition at the **Pacific Grove Art Center** and we've also enjoyed evenings with talented pros **Oliver Klink** and **Greg Magee**. It's been a notable first half, but I'm most encouraged by the success some of our newest members are having in our competitions. The AA and AAA members are beginning to submit more frequently and we're seeing beautiful images from these two groups. I'm sure this trend will continue to grow through the remainder of the year. Our members are the **Club** and all members can take credit for its continued success.

~ Take your lens cap off...

Ken Jones, President



Padre Trails Camera Club

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

www.padretrailsc.org

2017-2018 Officers:

President - **Ken Jones**
Vice President - **Bill Shewchuk**
Secretary - **Shelley Nemeth**
Treasurer - **Cath Tendler-Valencia**

Activity Chairs:

Awards - **Chris Johnson**
Competitions - **John Drum**, **Margret Cordts**,
Carmay Knowles, & **Joni Zabala**
Greeter - **Carmay Knowles**
Hospitality - **Chris Johnson**
Judges - **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 ~ William "Bill" Brown

by Bill Shewchuk

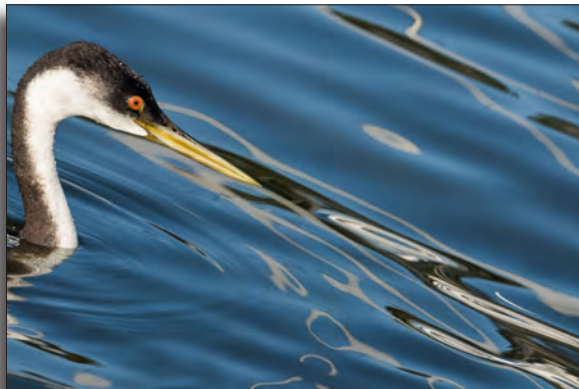
William "Bill" Brown was born in Richland, Washington, and, at just two-years-old, moved with his family to the Los Angeles area. He grew up on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and graduated from Rolling Hills High School. Bill attended California State University, Chico, and later the University of California at Davis where he earned his Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1987. He moved to the Central Coast because of the beauty of the area, as well as a job offer following graduation. Bill worked for several small companies over the years and concluded his career working on satellite communications for Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale. He retired in March 2017.



William "Bill" Brown with Laurie, and their 'kids'

The couple is currently living in temporary housing after their home in Carmel was smashed by a giant tree during winter storms last year. Repairs are still not completed. Busy with work, Bill just dabbled in photography for many years, but since retiring he has developed a passion for the practice. His first DSLR camera was a Nikon D600 and now he shoots with a D810. After retiring he was searching for a group of photographers and found **Padre Trails Camera Club** online.

Bill particularly likes the structure of the Club and the monthly competitions, which encourage him to get out and shoot, and the returns, which help him improve his photography skills.



Moss Landing Western Grebe



Minnesota Butterfly



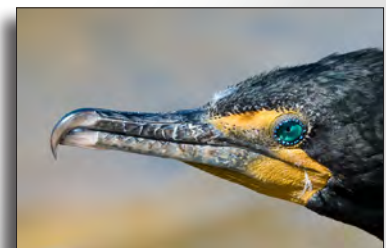
Snowy Egret

Bill's longtime partner is Laurie MacFarlane, a now-retired school teacher. They met online in 2000. Although Bill has no children, Laurie has a son with a family, so Bill and Laurie enjoy spending time with their grandchildren in Santa Monica. Playing a guitar and mandolin, Bill likes to entertain family and friends with his music. Bill and Laurie have two Dachshunds and belong to the Carmel Dachshund Club (who knew) where they enjoy organized dog walks with the group and dog photography.



Lovers' Point Surfer

Additionally, Bill finds the guest speakers and skill nights to be especially informative and entertaining. Once repairs on his house are completed, Bill hopes to contribute his time and talents to one of several positions in Padre Trails.



Laguna Grande Cormorant





Snapshot

by Carol Fuessenich

Improving Your Bird Photography

Now is the season to photograph the migratory birds. Whether you are going to Bosque del Apache in New Mexico or the Merced Wildlife Refuge in Los Banos, there are some things to keep in mind as you photograph birds. *Cherie St. Pierre* has listed a number of them in last February's issue of the *PSA Journal*. Here are a few pointers to remember when outside taking those bird photographs:

- Turn the grid on. This eliminates straightening the horizon line in post-processing.
- Turn on the *Vibration Reduction* when not using a tripod or monopod.
- Set the camera for continuous shooting mode.
- Use a fast shutter speed, at least 1/1000 of a second.
- Check your histogram.
- If you are telling a pictorial story, you may want to include a larger background with a high *f*-stop so everything is in focus.

For a complete list of suggestions and further explanations, pick up the February 2017 edition of the *PSA Journal* or visit the PSA website and the article, "Winter Wildlife Photography in Hokkaido, Japan."



Photo Event Calendar

For local photo event listings go to:

<http://mpenphotoevents.blogspot.com>

Through April 8th

Artists as Teachers Exhibition



Center for Photographic Art
Sunset Center, Carmel

Monday, March 5th

Pacific Grove Adult School - Registration opens for March 19th - June 2nd, 2018 Spring classes
Barbara Moon-Batista is teaching *Advanced Photography, Basic/Intermediate Photography, and Adobe Lightroom*

Friday-Sunday, March 9th - 11th

David Gubernick Workshop in Carmel
Lightroom Library and Develop Modules

Saturday, 10:00 AM, March 17th

Will Furman
"Bodie: Good Times and Bad"
Monterey Public Library
Monterey



My Favorite Shot

by Ken Jones

This image was taken a little after six in the evening on December 17, 2013 when I and a few other *PTCC* members drove down the coast to **Garrapata Beach** to photograph the sunset. The Big Sur fire farther down the coast gave the sunset an extraordinary vibrance. Playing with exposure times for wave action and adjusting to the constantly changing light really underscored for me the need to be totally familiar with your equipment. If you have to spend even a few seconds fiddling with settings in such a dynamic shooting environment you risk missing that perfect shot. I'm not claiming that this is that "Perfect Shot," but I'm very happy with the way the reflection in the wet sand balances the sky's depth and how the foam edge of the sand takes the eye up and around the rock, back to the sky. Garrapata Beach is about 16 miles south of Pacific Grove on Highway 1, just beyond Garrapata State Park, and is an easy walk from the highway. A nice evening's experience.



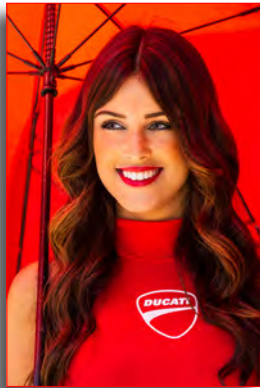
Image by Ken Jones



Winning Images from our 2018 Pictorial #2 - The Color **Red**

Group A - Advanced

First Place



"Caroline"
John Avera

Second Place



"Fall Maple Leaf"
Margret Cordts

Third Place



"Sean Tucker Cuts the Ribbon"
John Avera

Honorable Mentions



"Utility Cart"
Rick Verbanic



"An Intimate Look at a Rose"
Chris Johnson



"Fire Engine"
Richard Bucich

Group AA - Intermediate

First Place



"Franklin Street Red"
William Brown

Second Place



"Amanita Red"
William Brown

Group AAA - Developing

First Place



"Shopping in Paris"
Lillie Grossman

Second Place



"Red Dragonfly"
Nicole Asselborn

March Look Ahead

by Ken Jones

Our first meeting, on **March 7th**, will be an **Open Projector** night. We have one main event scheduled: Costa Rica images from the recent Roads Scholar trip to that country by **Chris Johnson, Carol Fuessenich, Carol Silveira** and **Jeff Hobbs**. If you've been watching our Facebook page, you've seen some jaw-dropping shots already. On the 7th, we'll see more of the best from all four travelers. Not a night to miss. As an **Open Projector** night, any member may bring images to share, either projected or print, in a ten-minute presentation. There will be a signup sheet at the door to determine the order of appearance. If we can't get everyone on stage, we'll queue you up for a later night.

On **Sunday, March 18th**, we're having another **Group Shoot**, this time to **Cannery Row**. The details are on page one and our website, in Member Resources. We hope all members will participate!

The returns of our Carmel Valley field trip will be presented at our regular meeting on **March 21st**. Participating members submitted one image for each of the eight categories they were tasked to capture. It's always interesting to see how many ways an idea can be interpreted and how many different ways a subject can be seen and captured. This year our judge is **PTCC Pro Member, Doug Steakley**. Doug's been in the Club for a long time but his active travels leading workshops and tours around the world have kept him on the go. At our first meeting in April, Doug will present his stunning images of Iceland. Iceland is one of the most beautiful places on the planet, made more so through Doug's images.

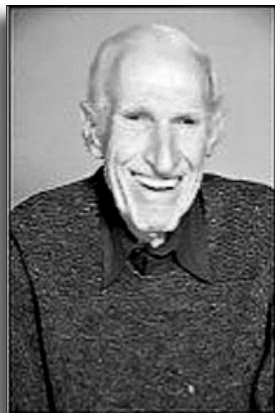


Gerald W. Mackenzie, Jr.

August 3, 1922 - February 9, 2018

Longtime Monterey resident and photographer, **Jerry Mackenzie**, passed away on February 9th. Jerry and his wife, June, retired to the Peninsula in 1984. Jerry was active in the *Center for Photographic Art, Iagemakers of Monterey, Independent Photographers, Padre Trails Camera Club*, and many other local organizations. You can sign Jerry's guest book and leave messages for his family at:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/support-friends-and-family>



Gerald W. Mackenzie, Jr.



Good News, Bad News, Good News from Hilltop

Our regular meeting room at Hilltop was changed recently to what's turning out to be a much better space for us. Better in that there is more counter space, a couple of comfortable couches, our own restroom, and no vent fan blowing noisily in the corner. Members were quite taken with the new space until the first meeting there. A dance class being conducted directly above us on the second floor set the light fixtures jumping and often the roar of happy feet would drown out conversation below. This thunder cloud had a silver lining, however. After talking with Nichole at Hilltop, she and Katie, the site manager, have moved the dance class across the aisle upstairs and our skies are clear again.

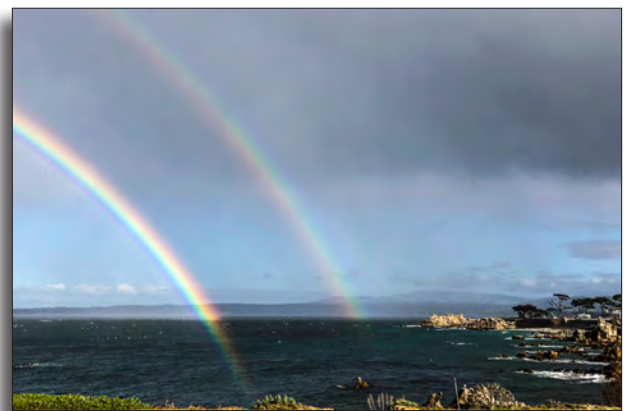


Send your comments, photographic news items, images, and suggestions, to info@padretrailssc.org or click on "Letters to the Editor" at the bottom of our *Bits & Pixels* Newsletter website page.



Editor's Corner

A couple of weeks ago my hubby and I were driving around Ocean View Boulevard and had the good fortune to see the beautiful double rainbow that appeared over Monterey Bay.



Double Rainbow - Image by Carmay Knowles

It was the first time in my life that I actually saw an end of the rainbow. It was there, right in front of us, in the Bay, just between Lovers Point and Perkins Park. Amazing, but fitting, given that I believe we live in paradise here.

~ Happy capturing, everyone!

Carmay Knowles, Editor