

Bits & Pixels

December 2017—January 2018 Vol. 3, No. 3



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

www.padretrailsc.org

A Look Ahead

The images for our *B&W* competition are due by midnight, on **Sunday, December 31st** - on New Year's Eve! The judge for this competition is **Richard Cannon**, a San Jose native, who has been creating fine art photography since 2005. Richard is a past president of the board of trustees of Carmel's Center for Photographic Art, his photographs have appeared in many exhibits on the Monterey Peninsula, and several of his works are in the permanent collection at CHOMP. We will see the returns at our meeting on **January 17th, 2018**.

At our first meeting in the new year, on **January 3rd, 2018**, our guest speaker will be **Oliver Klink**, a professional fine art photographer and educator based in Los Gatos, whose work has been published in *National Geographic*, *Days of Japan*, *Black & White* magazine, *Popular Photography* magazine, and several others. Mr. Klink has traveled to over 110 countries to capture the intricacy of our ecosystems and his talk is a reflection on traveling to all the continents, discovering hidden gems off-the-beaten tracks and learning how to interact with remote culture. He also shares travel and photography tips to capture exciting images and create captivating stories. To see the workshops he teaches, go to: www.incredibletravelphotos.com

Watch your email box for important information about our *Annual Competitive Field Trip* on **Sunday, January 28th, 2018!** This year we're venturing into the mysterious Carmel Valley with a knapsack full of elusive categories and cameras at the ready. You can shoot all you want on that day, but can only submit one stunning image per category. More details to come. Good Luck!



Upcoming Submission Dates

- **Midnight, Sunday, December 31st – Black & White #1** - Open, any subject.
- **Midnight, Sunday, January 28th – Pictorial #2** - Directed: **Reds**. Subject: the color red, any pictorial interpretation.



City of Monterey Photography Contest

Celebrate Monterey's beauty and community! Photographers of all ages are invited to enter their best high resolution images celebrating the community in the **City of Monterey Photography Contest**. All photos entered must be taken within Monterey City limits. Photos taken outside the City of Monterey will be disqualified. Capture Monterey's beautiful landscapes, seascapes, historical and urban architecture, active people and vibrant community life and submit your favorite photographs in these three categories:

- **Environment** - sky, beach, mountain, park, and wildlife
 - **Architecture** - urban design, cityscapes, landmarks, and infrastructure
 - **Culture & Community** - people of all ages involved in sports, art activities, and enjoying special events.
- Each contestant can enter up to six entries total.



The deadline to submit is **December 31st, 2017**. Entering is easy and free. Send your digital files by email to: webmaster@monterey.org. For more information, visit: <https://monterey.org/photocontest> or contact **Laurie Huelga**, huelga@monterey.org or (831) 242-8750.



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November - December Review

by Carmay Knowles

Our Skills Night presentation on November 1st, was by *Sylvia Gardner*, who gave us tips about entering creative juried shows and shared a favorite link to *CaFE for Artists* or Call for Entry.org: <https://www.callforentry.org/>, which helps her find shows to enter. Sylvia said that entering shows makes her work harder and capture different images than she might otherwise. She cautioned us to look at who the judge is and be aware of costs: entry fees, printing, matting, framing, etc.; and be prepared to be rejected, but to just keep trying — resubmit, resubmit. She suggested that when you do get into a show, be sure to send out postcards to friends and family. Here is the link to the *Hahnemuhle* paper company: <https://www.hahnemuehle.com/en/index.html>.

At our **End-of-Year Party** on Saturday, November 4th, 2017, we enjoyed a delicious potluck spread and saw the review of all the winning images from



End of Year Potluck images by Jared Ikeda

last year in a slideshow put together by *John Avera*. The winning Images of the Year were announced and are on our website for viewing. Congratulations to high point total winner *Elke Ikeda*, who, with 33 points, has now moved up to the A Group. *Jerry Heisel*, *Bill Shewchuk*, and *Chris Johnson* tied for second place, with 27 points each, and with 19 points each, *Joel Gambord* and *Jared Ikeda* tied for third. Congratulations to *Chris Johnson*, who was awarded the *Sharon Blaziek Award*, created to honor the memory of a most valuable PTCC member, Sharon Blaziek, who passed in 2015.



On **November 15th**, we saw a fun Halloween slide show put together by *Carol Silveira* and also the returns of our Nature #1 competition, judged by *Tom Hierl*. As always, the winning images are on our website: <http://www.padretrailscc.org/>

At our only **December** meeting we had a brief **Open Projector** with *Jeff Hobbs* showing three wonderful photos from Yosemite, but the main event was our **Annual Print Donation** and raffle to benefit the **Food Bank of Monterey County**. Once again, **PTCC** members stepped up and donated some wonderful matted prints. It was a fun and exciting evening, almost everyone went home with at least one print and a lot of good cheer, and we raised \$640, beating last year's total. What a great way to end the year. Happy Holidays, everyone!



Welcome to PTCC!

Two new members have joined us: *Lindsay Smith* and *Jean Wells*. Welcome to *Padre Trails*! We look forward to seeing your images and getting to know you.



Padre Trails Camera Club

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

www.padretrailscc.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



Shots and Spots: Images of Fall



Autumn Splendor - by Bill Shewchuk
One of my favorites from autumn in Door County, Wisconsin.



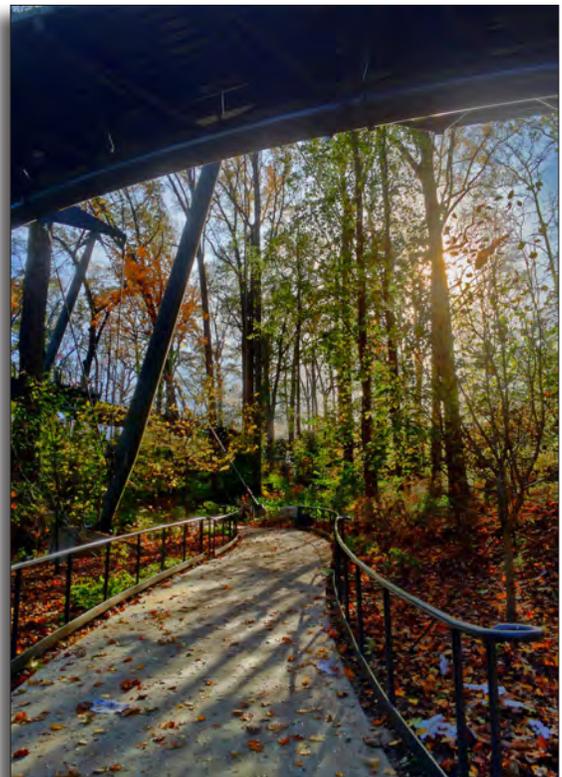
Fall colors in Colorado - by Gerald Gifford

In the Fall of 2015 and again in Fall 2016, my wife and I embarked on road trips with the goal of viewing and photographing Fall colors.



Mt. Hood, Oregon - by Shelley Nemeth

Portland, Oregon has a vast wealth of photo opportunities, both in the city and around the area without a long drive. This particular photo is actually the farthest away from Portland, Mt. Hood - about 90 minutes away.



Botanical Garden, Atlanta, GA - by Brooks Leffler

It's not exactly next door, but I love the **Botanical Garden** in Atlanta, GA. Most impressive is the network of catwalks through the forest, varying in height from ground level up to 40 feet, winding through a native grove of 150-foot tulip-poplars. The walkways are fully accessible, and I can ride my scooter the whole length of the walk — maybe a half mile in total.

PSA Snapshot by Carol Fuessenich

Newsletter Competition

Each year the *PSA* (Photographic Society of America) conducts a newsletter competition. Carmay and Ken have entered our *Bits and Pixels* the last two years. The first year we received recognition for its banner and this year we received an **HM** in the small club category.

What makes a 1st place newsletter? Spend a few minutes and look at the other winning newsletters. Each year they are on the *PSA* website. The winning publication this year is from the *Housatonic Camera Club*. It is filled with pictures from competitions and individuals' submissions. Go to <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?newsletter-2017-results> and check it out. Type 'Newsletter competition' in the search box.

Let's support Carmay and our *Bits and Pixels* Newsletter and get those articles and photographs into her by the 20th of each month. Help us win 1st place next year in the *PSA* competition!

PSA website: <https://psa-photo.org>

Batista Moon Studio Photographers' Exhibit

An exhibition of work by the *Batista Moon Studio Photographers: Barbara Moon Batista, Fernando Batista, Sylvia Gardner, Martha Hogan, Terrence Farrell, and Juanita Griffin*, will be at **Mundo's Sandwich & Burger House**, 170 Webster Street, in Monterey, from **December 17th, 2017 through January 27th, 2018**. The opening reception is on **December 17th** from 2:30 - 4:30 PM.

To see more work from each photographer, visit: batistamoonphotographers.smugmug.com or contact: bmsphotographers@gmail.com.



Volunteer Photographer Wanted

by Joni Zabala

The non-profit organization, "*Read to Me*," which promotes reading among young children and, ultimately, siblings reading to each other, is looking for a photographer volunteer to take a few quality pics of the kids in the program for their promotion materials. "*Read to Me*" has reached out to our camera club to see if there might be interest in helping out with this project. If you're interested, please contact *Joni Zabala* to connect with the Project. Thank you.



My Two Bits...

Ken is Recovering from Vacation

Editor's note: As many of you know, Ken just returned from three months of travel. His *Two Bits* will return, when he's fully rested, in the February newsletter. Welcome back, Ken, we missed you! Hope you...

~ Took your lens cap off...



Photo Event Calendar

For local photo events go to:

<http://mpenphotoevents.blogspot.com>

Sunday, December 17th

Last day of the
Annual Miniatures Exhibition + Raffle
Monterey Museum of Art
Pacific Street, Monterey

Saturday, December 23rd — Noon - 4:00 PM

Last day of the
Annual Juried Exhibition
 **Center for Photographic Art**
Sunset Center, Carmel

Sunday, December 31st

Last day to submit
City of Monterey Photography Contest
<https://monterey.org/photocontest>

Saturday, January 6th

Roman Loranc
4-5 **Carpenter Hall Lecture**
5-7 **CPA Gallery**
 **Center for Photographic Art**
Sunset Center, Carmel

Crow or Raven?

by Judi Clayton

Bird identification is always a challenge for me. There are so many that look very similar to others with only slight differences. I often wonder about how to distinguish between the crows and the ravens that inhabit my world here in Monterey. They are both big black birds that look like they came out of an Alfred Hitchcock movie. Which one is which? I set out on an internet quest to know my neighbor birds better. They both are common in many areas of our country, including Coastal California. There are several different species of crows and ravens in the genus *Corvus*, but for now I will just focus on what I learned about the general differences between crows and ravens. For starters, ravens are larger than crows with bigger, more curved beaks, and longer bristles at the base of the beak. I found that, whether they are up in a tree or flying by in the sky, I cannot distinguish size or these subtle differences very well, so I continued my search for other differences.

Crows often travel in large “murders” (a group of crows) of thousands, while ravens tend to pair up or hang out in a “conspiracy” (a group of ravens) of 100 or more. While flying, ravens will soar for extended periods, crows don’t. Well, that helped me a bit, but I was still confused, so I continued my search to learn more about how to distinguish between the two. I learned that crows make a “cawing” sound, while ravens have more of a “croaking” sound. I checked out the <http://www.audubon.org/> website where they have both sounds recorded for comparison. I listened and could not only tell the difference, but could identify my bird neighbors as crows.

Now that I knew who was up in my trees, I still wanted to be able to distinguish the difference



Crows in my backyard. Images by Carmay Knowles

between the birds in flight. What I learned was that crows’ tail feathers are all the same length, so when they are in flight they fan out with an even edge like a Japanese fan—almost square looking. The middle tail feathers on a raven, however, are longer than their outside tail feathers, so that when the raven is in flight, the tail feathers seem to be pointing backwards or are more diamond shaped. There are many other differences for sure, but I hope this brief summary helps when you are out in the field, at the beach or in your yard looking at those “big black birds.”

Resources:

- http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/crows_and_ravens/
- <http://www.audubon.org/news/how-tell-raven-crow>
- <https://www.birdnote.org/show/ravens-and-crows-who-who>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corvus>.
- <http://www.lyberty.com/encyc/articles/murder.html>
- http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/crow_vs_raven.html



PTCC to Exhibit at PG Art Center

by Shelley Nemeth

In what seems like an early holiday gift, the *Pacific Grove Art Center* has invited *PTCC* members to exhibit photographs to fill a gallery vacancy beginning in January - with the usual entry fees waived! This announcement came to the Club at the last minute and was shared at the December 6th meeting, with a commitment deadline of just a few days hence, and a submission deadline only a week or so later. But our members met the challenge with enthusiasm and expediency! As of this writing, we have confirmed entries from 22 members, with a total of up to 40 eclectically chosen images, framed and ready to turn in this week! Here are the details of our exhibit, entitled **Padre Trails Camera Club - Points of View**.

• Exhibit Dates:

January 12th through February 22nd, 2018
(Wednesday-Saturday, 12:00 NOON—5:00 PM)

• Location: Pacific Grove Art Center,
568 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

Watch for further details of a “Gala Opening” at the Art Center!



Spots for Shots

by Margret Cordts

December is a great time for photography. Here are a few suggestions for opportunities:

1. **Pfeiffer Beach**, in the Big Sur area and within Los Padres National Forest, is where **Sycamore Canyon** creek empties into the Pacific. The main photo interest is **Keyhole Rock** with its amazing natural arch base, where salt water and the sunset rays can pass through. The north end of the beach has unique purple sand that comes from the manganese garnet rocks in the cliffs. Pfeiffer Beach access is via 9100 Sycamore Canyon Road, about 2 miles in from Highway 1.

2. Monarch butterflies are not only in Pacific Grove at the **Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary**, between Ridge Road and Grove Acre Avenue, but also in Santa Cruz at the **Natural Bridges State Beach** on 2531 West Cliff Drive. This park also provides another opportunity to photograph an arch rock. The entrance to the park is located where West Cliff Drive ends at Swanton Boulevard. There is a free parking lot next to an ocean/beach overlook at this intersection that is a perfect lookout for whale watching during the gray migration (Dec.-April). You can easily walk into the park from this parking lot. If you drive into the park, there is an entrance fee.

3. Red torch aloes line Oceanview Boulevard for a long stretch in Pacific Grove. These torch aloes are also known as tree aloes since they grow up to 10 feet tall. They are from South Africa and provide food for Anna's hummingbird as well as providing photo opps.

4. Holiday lights are everywhere, but don't miss the opportunity to go to **Candy Cane Lane** on Morse Drive, off Forest Avenue in Pacific Grove.

5. Sunsets can be colorful in December and occur extremely early in the day. No need to stay up late for a sunset photo. Moonrises occasionally follow the sunsets.

6. Perhaps a winter vacation will even give you the opportunity to photograph snow scenes.



Happy Holidays to All
and Wishes for a
Joyous, Peaceful, Healthy,
Prosperous New Year!

Holiday Photos Checklist

by Dale Thies

During the holidays there are many wonderful photographic opportunities. The holidays can create a story like little else can and photos that archive these days are the best tool in remembering it all. If you plan on capturing a few photographic moments, consider these tips for taking better photos

- **Clean your equipment** - lenses and sensors; and charge batteries
- **Use available light** – candles, fireplace, tree lights
- **Tell a story** – capture the action, find a conclusion
- **Consider your composition** – rule of thirds, fill frame, create depth
- **Portraits** – include everyone
- **Posing** – shoot from slightly above eye level
- **Shoot video** – look for action
- **Take turns** – hand off the camera or let little ones try it
- **Include yourself** – set the timer, let family take a shot of you
- **Take more photos** – more than you think you will need
- **Share your memories** - social media, online gallery
- **Back it up** – on your computer or other hard drive

Bonus tip: Put the camera down and enjoy!

For a complete *Holiday Photos Checklist*, go to <http://www.bit.ly/2A5M1mW>



Editor's Corner

Iwant to wish everyone the happiest of holidays! I hope you all stay healthy. I hope you enjoy time with the people who are special to you and take pictures of your loved ones. I hope you make happy holiday memories and I make a fervent wish for peaceful times in the New Year.

~ Happy capturing, everyone!

Carmay Knowles, Editor

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

