

THE ANGLE

June 2021

Volume 84 • No. 5



"SUMMERLAND BEACH" *by* Ken Pfeiffer



Newsletter of the Channel City Camera Club

Founded 1939 • Santa Barbara, CA

A Member Club of the Photographic Society of America
www.psa-photo.org

Founded in 1939, The Club meets publicly from February through November (no meetings in December, January, or August). An awards presentation occurs annually in January. Exhibitions are held on the first Tuesday, Programs occur on 3rd Tuesdays, and Education, Training, or Non-competitive Sharing occurs on 4th Tuesdays. Check "Upcoming Events" for details. Annual membership dues are \$50.00. Meetings are free to members and guests and we are always happy to see new faces. Only club members may enter works into juried exhibitions, attend field trips, join special interest groups, receive mentoring/non-juried critiques, or participate in gallery shows.

Before COVID-19 restrictions we met at Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. All current meetings are held virtually through Zoom.

Meetings open at 6:45 p.m. and formal programs begin at 7:00 p.m. We welcome guests interested in becoming members. If you would like to visit one of our Zoom meetings, please contact: membership@cccameraclub.com

USEFUL LINKS

[Channel City Camera Club Website](#)

[CCCC Photo Website on Flickr](#)

[CCCC Facebook Group Page](#)

[The Angle Archives Website](#)



Click icon for link

Email Exhibition Images : c4exhibitions@gmail.com

Email Angle Editor at : angle@cccameraclub.com

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upcoming events

All meetings are currently held virtually with
**Zoom Link Reminders Sent
before 5:00 p.m. on meeting nights**

Tuesday, June 1, @ 7:00 p.m. (Meeting opens at 6:45 p.m.)
Juried Exhibition Night • June 2021

Tuesday, June 8, @ 7:00 p.m. (Meeting opens at 6:45 p.m.)
TENTATIVE: Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, @ 7:00 p.m. (Meeting opens at 6:45 p.m.)
**Program Night: Andreina Diaz -
Shooting and Sharing on Instagram**

Tuesday, June 22, @ 7:00 p.m. (Meeting opens at 6:45 p.m.)
4th Tuesday Sharing: Break the Rules and Make it Work

Friday, June 25, @ 11:59 p.m
Deadline for JULY Exhibition Digital and Print Submissions
(*"My Pandemic Life" Special Assignment in NATURE*)

Email digital files (including digital versions of prints) to Chris Seaton at
<c4exhibitions@gmail.com>

Deliver prints via USPS or personal delivery to Ron Williams at
4195 La Ladera Rd • Santa Barbara CA 93110

Mid-Year Check-up



This edition of the Angle brings us to the midpoint of our meetings this year. There are four meetings on either side of June. Time to check in on what's happened and what's happening:

What's Happened?

- Four Exhibition Nights with 320 diverse, engaging submissions (including 18 prints, 5 video submissions, and an overall 53% acceptance rate).
- Engaging programs with better attendance than pre-Zoom live meetings
- Increased non-competitive sharing with monthly challenges on 4th Tuesdays
- Active SIGS (Bird/Nature, Visual Storytelling)
- A unique special non-technical workshop with Cole Thompson that explored artistic and photographic vision

What's Happening?

- We're working to return to some in-person activity with a BBQ and Potluck this August. The tentative date is still in discussion, but it's likely to be in mid-August.
- An Exhibition Rules Committee is working on a recommendation to the Board for some possible modification in category rules and scoring
- We hope that more "In-Person" opportunities may begin to arise as Covid restrictions start to ease up and we learn more about what "normal" will be.
- It's not too early to be considering your interest in joining the club Board of Directors. It's a great way to get to know other members better and provide service to the club!

Stay Tuned!

"To invent, you need a good imagination
and a pile of junk."

- Thomas Edison



I came upon some historical facts I thought I would share with you. Interesting, with nothing to memorize - just plain entertainment. Summer is approaching so we don't want to think too hard!

For hundreds of years, newsletters have been a source of information, entertainment, and communication. Even in the 1700s, Ben Franklin produced what we would refer to as a newsletter.

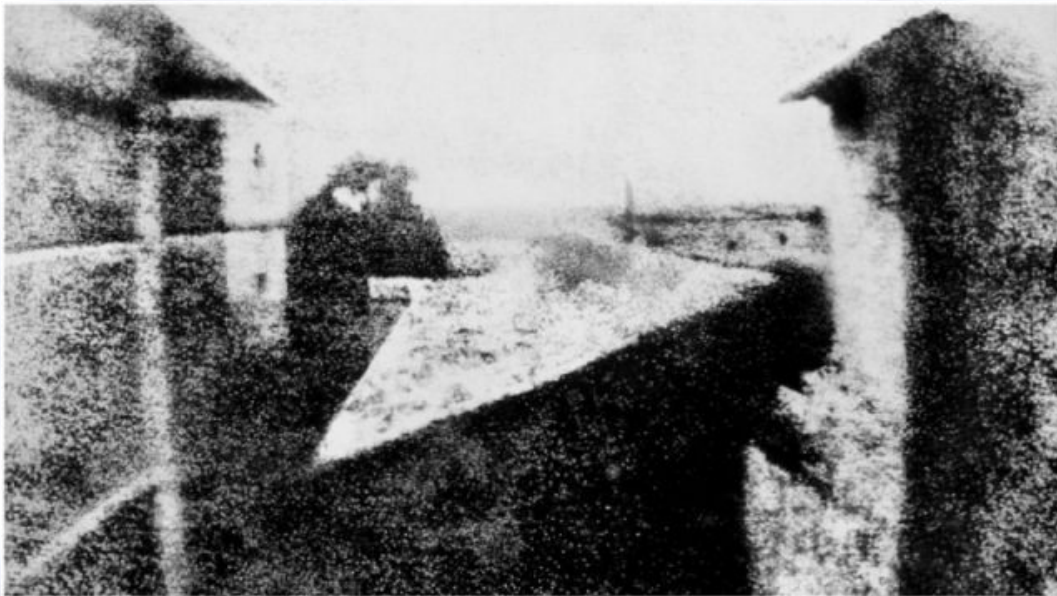
The Photographic Society of Philadelphia is the oldest active photography club in the country. From 1860 to the present, the Society has provided a place to share new technologies, ideas, and techniques.

Boston Camera Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of photography as an art and science established in 1881. It is the second-oldest continuously extant amateur camera club in the United States.

The Baltimore Camera Club incorporated in 1884.

Pittsburg was one of the earliest centers of pictorial photography. The Pittsburg Amateur Photographer's Society was formed in 1885. Its early membership included one woman and by the next year, they had 3 women in their midst.

The world's first photograph - or at least the oldest surviving photo - was taken by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in a commune in France called Saint-Loup-de-Varennnes somewhere between 1826 and 1827. Captured using a technique known as heliography. Because the photographic method produces one-of-a-kind images, there are no duplicates of the piece. While it was a revolution in technology, the plate itself went missing for quite some time. Eventually, it was found in storage, in a crate, in 1952. It is now part of the permanent collection at the University of Texas-Austin.



"View From The Window At Le Gras"

Have you ever wondered what is the world's most viewed image ever? It's called "Bliss" by Charles O'Rear. It was NOT digitally manipulated, not photoshopped, no filters attached. The photograph was taken using a handheld medium format Mamiya RZ67 camera on Fuji film. The photographer received one of the largest amounts ever paid to a living working photographer.

Do you think you have never seen this image?



The photo was taken in the Sonoma Valley and used to launch Microsoft's Windows OS campaign in 2001. It was the default desktop wallpaper and used until 2014. It was chosen by the company because "it illustrates the experiences Microsoft strives to provide customers (freedom, possibility, calmness, warmth, etc.)". The end result?... billions of views!

And Hooray! I have just learned of a new holiday we can look forward to. August 19 is WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY! Who would have thought? Created in 2009 by Australian photographer Korske Ara, the day encourages people to pick up their cameras and be inspired by other fellow photographers to take pictures and share them with the world. Mark it on your calendar.

Now... Get out and shoot!

Linda A. Kavanagh

EXHIBITION: Image Submission Requirement **Chris Seaton**

SUBMIT VIA EMAIL TO: c4exhibitions@gmail.com

FILE NAMING REQUIREMENT

Title_Of_The_Photo%%Peo%%First_LastName

SIZE OF IMAGES

No greater than 5120 pixels wide or 2880 in height.

(Smaller sizes may appear soft in Exhibition Night slideshow)

COLOR SPACE

sRGB

MAXIMUM SUBMISSION PER MONTH

One Image in up to three categories PLUS one print

QUESTIONS?

Email: seatopwr@gmail.com



2021 Categories

Creative/Conceptual Editing

Nature

Open

People

Prints

Announcing:

Remaining Special Assignments for 2021

Clearly, 2020 saw disruption on a global scale. Memories of our regular lives fade, and visions of returning to normalcy are foggy, at best. Through it all, we challenge ourselves to keep our own spirits high and to do what we can to raise the spirits of those around us. We seek healthy, safe responses for frustration and isolation. We invent creative alternatives to lost routines, and we reflect on unfamiliar feelings. We seek to understand, and we seek to be understood. We look at our surroundings from new perspectives, and...

This year we challenge you to submit a photo in each category as a means of sharing a bit about your life in these challenging times. This year the Special Assignments have a common theme:

My Pandemic Life.

Share an image old or new, (created using any device for photographic capture that conforms to the guidelines of each category) that tells us something about your mood; your emotions; your companions; your environment; your routines; your boundaries. Show us what makes you happy or sad; what lifts or lowers your spirits; someone or something you value differently than before. In short, tell us about your life in the era of COVID-19.

Nature: July 2021

Next: Creative/Conceptual Editing: October 2021.

EXHIBITION NIGHT: Judges

Stuart Wilson

CCCC Exhibition Night June 1, 2021

Professional Judges: **Chuck Place**

Joyce Wilson

Club Judge: **Bob Rottenberg**



Chuck Place - has worked as an editorial photographer for over thirty-five years, specializing in aerials, food, real estate and people on location. His clients include National Geographic, Sunset, Islands, Time, and Smithsonian and he is also the sole photographer of six books. Chuck taught at Brooks for many years and now teaches photography classes at Santa Barbara City College and through private tutoring. Chuck has a popular blog with photography tutorials on a wide range of subjects along with posts by other instructors. <https://santabarbaraphotographicworkshops.wordpress.com>

Joyce Wilson - After a long and successful career in Indianapolis, Joyce moved to Santa Barbara, CA in 1996 and served on the Faculty of Brooks Institute until 2013. Her images have appeared in numerous advertising campaigns, featured in solo and group exhibitions, and included in the permanent collections of eight museums including the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. She was awarded the International Photographic Council Leadership Award at the United Nations in 2003, and Professional Photographers of America Lifetime Achievement in 2006. Joyce embraced photography as an art and is continually growing and experimenting blending old world technology with contemporary techniques.

Her materials include Photoshop and collage, Polymer Photogravure etching, metallic leaf, encaustic, pastels, oil, and acrylic paint. She shares this knowledge by teaching creative workshops and is active in the Santa Barbara Art community.

Bob Rottenberg - His interest in photography began when he received a Kodak Hawkeye at age 13, but he believes that the most important date in his photographic career was when he joined the CCCC 16 years ago. His choice of career as a radiologist also reflects his ongoing interest in the recorded image. His "exposure" to digital cameras and Photoshop accelerated his passion as an amateur photographer. He has modestly stated that he has little native artistic talent, leading him to concentrate on technical excellence by creating photographs that are compositionally simple and direct. We all know that this combination of modesty, technical excellence, and creativity has resulted in one of the most outstanding photographers in the CCCC.

Photography is the
power of observation
not the application of
technology...

Ken Rockwell

PRINTS

May Exhibition Highlights



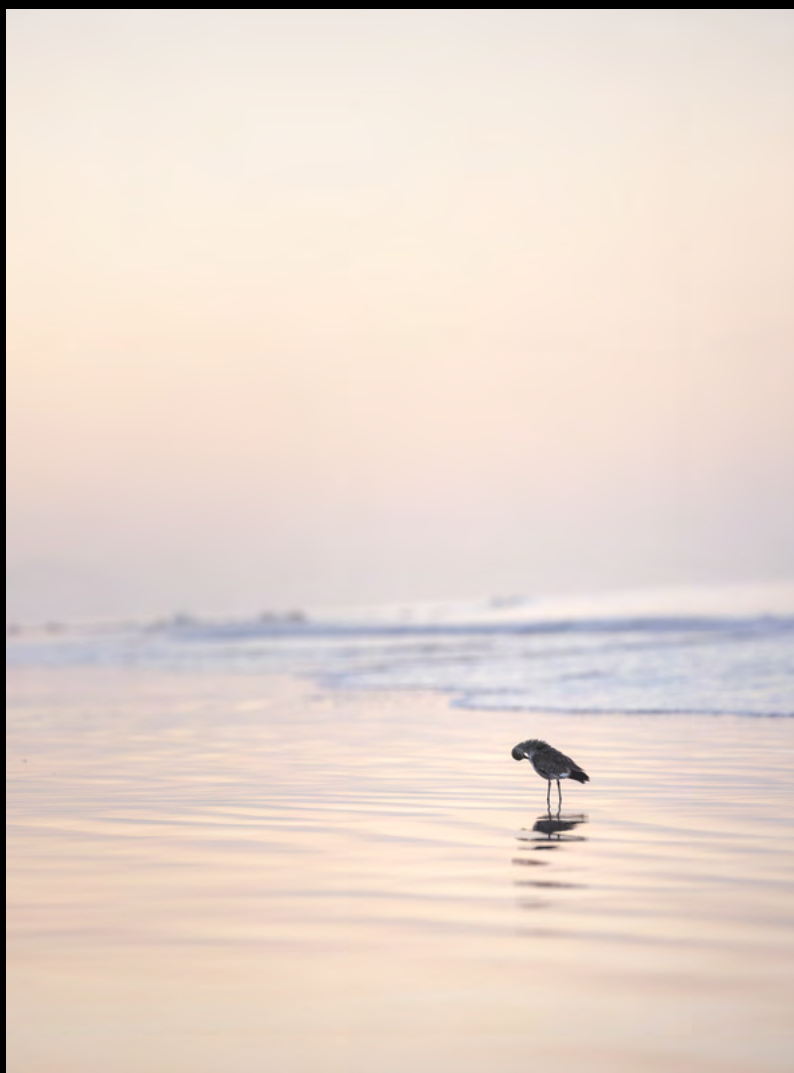
"ABUNDANCE" by Bill Banning



"MORRAINE LAKE" by Ron Abeles



"RADIANT" by Ron Williams



"SPARKLE" by Sally Berry

CREATIVE CONCEPTUAL

May Exhibition Highlights



"COURAGE" by Ken Pfeiffer



"COFFEE TIME REFLECTION" by Ellen Clark



"LONE TREE" by Zoltan Puskas



"LAND OF OZ" by Ron Williams

NATURE

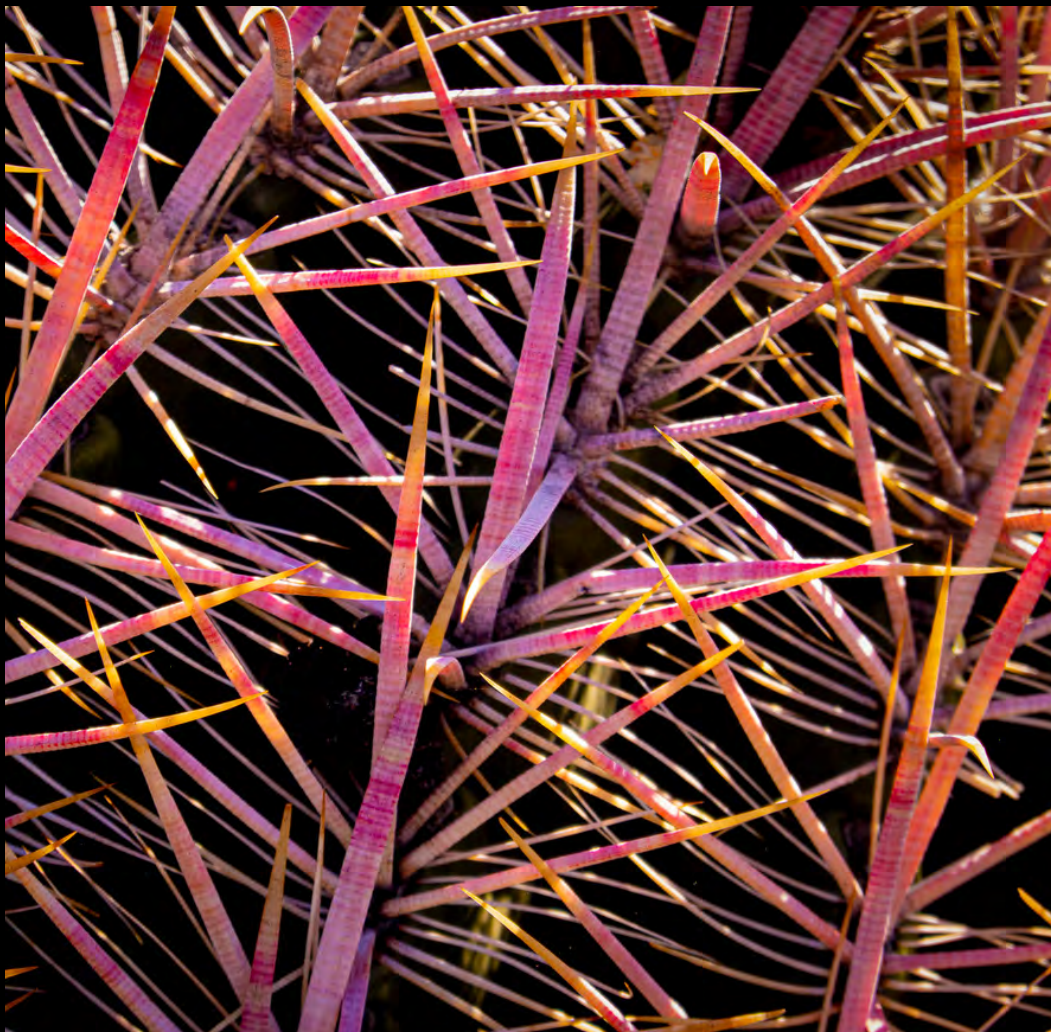
May Exhibition Highlights



"MAD AS HELL" by Don Green



"TIDEPOL TABLEAU" by Stuart Wilson



"DESERT SPINES"

by

Pat Birdsell

"TULIP REVEALED"

by

Ron Abeles



OPEN
May Exhibition Highlights



"AWAITING SPRING" by Bill Charboneau



"LOVELY WATER PATTERN" by Ines Roberts



"I PREFER MIRRORLESS" by Jeff Lipshitz



"ALLURE" by Ron Williams

PEOPLE
May Exhibition Highlights
assignment: My Pandemic Life



"DO IT YOURSELF" by Carrie Topliffe



"SCHOOL DURING COVID" by Chris Seaton



"PINK WHITE AND BLUE" by Bill Banning



"GLOBAL SAFETY" by Bill Hallier

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Andreina Diaz:

Shooting and Sharing on Instagram

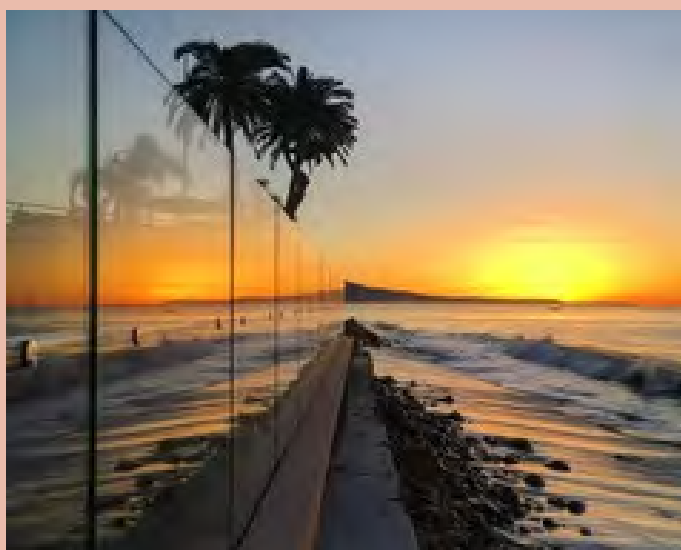


Andreina will share her shooting technique and workflow. How her images go from the camera to retouching apps versus retouching using Instagram tools. She will discuss posting times, hashtags, geotags, Instagram Stories, etc. For those interested in learning a bit more about sharing their work via Instagram you won't want to miss this program.

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Andreina moved to The U.S. in the '90s to expand her vision about life and to further her education in the field of visual communication. She began her career in television, working as a T.V. producer for the NBC network and later at Univision, the Spanish T.V. network. In 2005 she graduated with honors from Brooks Institute of Photography. Diaz worked as art director and senior photographer at Seymour Duncan. Working there she combined both her passions for music and photography into one successful career. In 2018 she gave life to her passion project, Eye See Santa Barbara Photography Tours, a unique and vibrant experience for people of all skill levels to learn how to take pictures around beautiful Santa Barbara. Recently the focus of her commercial photography has been on working with businesses to develop their brands through Social Media. Her background in marketing and communications drives her vision of every commercial photoshoot.

Her clients include local prestigious resorts and restaurants. On any given day, you may find her taking photos of sunrise, sunsets, and palm trees for travel magazines in Santa Barbara, or planning international photography workshops to Italy.

Andreina's life has been defined by her ability to take on new challenges. Her passion, intuition, and positive outlook are portrayed in her work. As a photographer, she integrates her experiences as a visual communicator to create compelling images that are both beautiful and timeless.



www.eyeseesantabarbara.com

310.384.8127 | Andreina@eyeseesantabarbara.com

4th Tuesday Program

Organized by club members like you!

Tuesday, June 22, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Challenges Continue

In May, we had wonderful member interaction with a challenge to share macro or close-up photos. We looked at more than 50 examples with diverse subject matter from 13 members. There was lots of great dialog and hints for creating your own macro photos. Below are a few examples. [You can see ALL the submissions here.](#)



Photo by Judith Barat



Photo by Deb Gibson

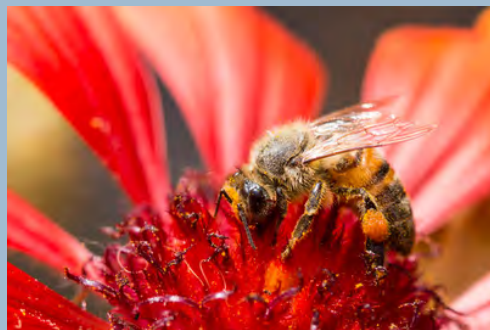


Photo by Chris Seaton

The Challenge for June is:

Break the Rules and Make it Work

Send in examples of your favorite photographs that work despite purposefully (or inadvertently) breaking one or more of traditional compositional or technical rules. At the meeting, you can tell us the story and bask in the rebellious, rule-breaking glory!

Each month's challenge is chosen by that month's audience through a Zoom Poll of suggestions made at the meeting. You can send in examples from your portfolio or you can get out your gear and shoot for the challenge. What you really shouldn't do is... NOTHING. Join the fun. Share images and see what others have to say and what they share. It's a great way to spend your "4th Tuesdays". If you don't have anything that meets the challenge—get out and look for a good subject, or dig through your archives to find a rule-breaking image that you'd like to share.

Send your submissions to: president@cccameraclub.com

CCCC is not planning organized field trips at this time but here I have found interesting items for your summer minutes:



Below is a book you can try and find at the local library and the gallery you can view online.

Photowork: Forty Photographers on Process & Practice by Sasha Wolf

PhotoWork is a collection of interviews by a wide range of photographers about their approach to making photographs and, more importantly, a sustained body of work. Curator and lecturer Sasha Wolf was inspired to seek out and assemble responses to these questions after hearing from countless young photographers about how they often feel adrift in their own practice, wondering if they are doing it the “right” way.

Travel Photography of the Year Award Winners 2020 Gallery

From majestic landscapes, intimate animal and bird portraits and intriguing night-time views beneath the ocean’s surface to harrowing reportage of life under siege in Syria and glimpses of cultures across the world, the winning images in the 2020 TPOTY awards present a fascinating view of life on our planet, at a time in which travel is still so difficult for so many of us. They had images contributed from 147 countries including from a category under 14 years of age.

<https://www.tpoty.com/2021-competition/>

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

BIRD / WILDLIFE & LANDSCAPE SIG

DON GREEN

The Bird/Wildlife SIG includes bird and environmental/landscape photos. So all you out there who aren't into bird photos but like landscape photography, come on out. Questions? Email Don Green at: dntgreen@msn.com

Here we go:

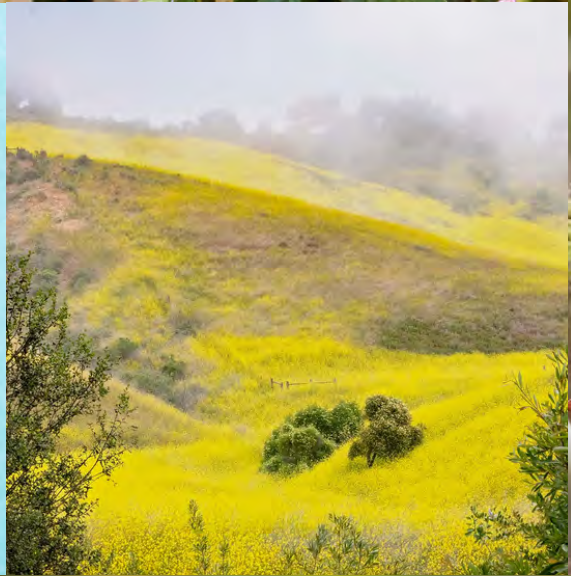
Goleta Beach in the early morning. That's the place to be right now for action photos of Great Blue Herons. There is a new crop of birds and they are having a feeding, I can't say frenzy, but let's call it a buffet line in the slough. Plenty of fish moving about and this morning there were twelve herons all actively feeding. So, the best time I had was around 6:30 this morning. The action seemed to fall off around 9:30 so that gives you plenty of time to get something very unique. Now a bit about bird behavior; the birds will crouch down real low to the water and that's your tip-off that they will strike at a fish. Also when they extend their necks and raise their head really high that is a tip-off of a confrontation to happen soon. Note that if you're using a zoom lens and you're in tight on the bird when it extends its neck you might want to back out a bit as when the wings come out all of a sudden you have a 6-foot wingspan to fit in the frame. All the action was happening in the stretch of water by the bird viewing platform. You can just sit on the bank and the birds won't even notice you.

So there you have it...some action. And if you get something you want to post save it for the June album and post it then. We're at the end of May but really with this type of action who gives a hoot.

See you out there,
Don

[Click to view](#)

[Bird / Wildlife & Landscape SIG and all CCCC Photo Albums](#)



STREET PHOTOGRAPHY SIG

DAVID AUSTON & CHRIS SEATON

Some Street Photography Resources

There haven't been any formal Street Photography SIG events recently, but there are loads of exceptional resources out there for anyone interested in this genre of photography. Here are a few to explore and consider:

Digital Photography School Blog: [Abstract Street Photography](#)

Book: [*The Americans* by Robert Frank](#)

Book: [*The Street Photographer's Manual* by David Gibson](#)

Book: [*Masters of Street Photography* by Rob Yarham](#)

Book: [*How I Make Photographs* by Joel Meyerowitz](#)

Website: [Complete Guide to Street Photography for Beginners](#)

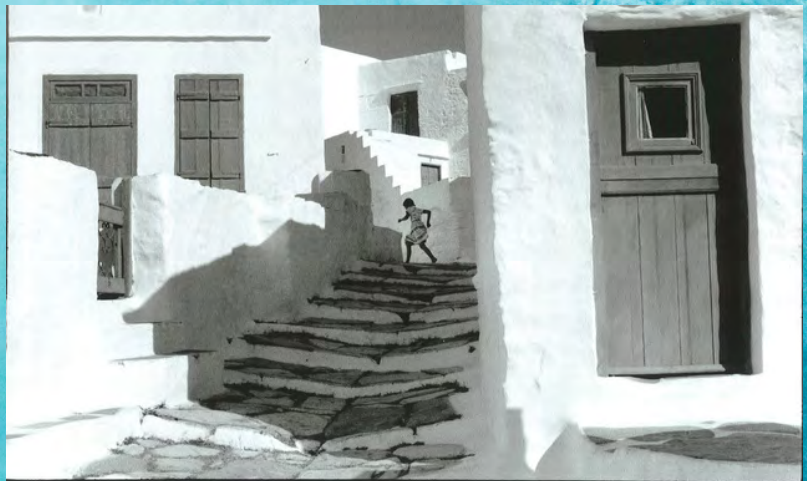
Website: [Street Photography "Refocus Your Attention"](#)

Website: [Eric Kim - "Start Here"](#)

YouTube: [Street Photography Videos by Frederik Trovatten](#)



Joel Meyerowitz



Henri Cartier-Bresson

IMAGE EVALUATION

STUART WILSON

The Club will continue its successful evaluation program in 2021. Its objective is to help members improve their photographic skills. Club members may submit one photo per month via email for critique and helpful suggestions by some of our more advanced members. Members may use this service to help them refine their entries in the monthly exhibitions. Your photo will be sent to our reviewers anonymously and their comments will be emailed to you a few days later. Simply email your photo, resized to no more than 1400 pixels on the long side to:



Stuart Wilson <stuarttwilson@gmail.com>

[Careful... there are 2 t's in stuarttwilson]

with a subject heading of "Image Evaluation Program"
call 805-962-0365.

PSA NEWS

Walter Naumann

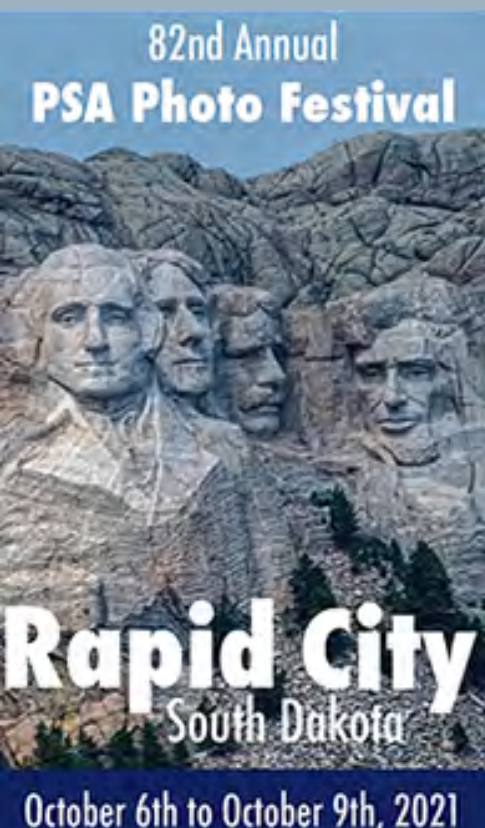
The Photographic Society of America Website

www.psa-photo.org

To see the details of Photo Festival speakers click on:

<https://psa-programs.org/photo-festival-2021/speakers.html>

**PSA MEMBERSHIP PROMO
FOR A PREPAID 5 YEAR
STINT ONLY \$36/YEAR
GOING ON NOW!**



PRINT SHOWS

STEPHEN SHERRILL

Due to COVID-19 restrictions our print shows are temporarily on hold.



.....
"To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them." - Elliott Erwitt

CAMERA HELP

The following members have volunteered to provide "camera help." You are welcome to contact them if you need help.

Canon Cameras:

- Stephen Sherrill: sfsherrill@earthlink.net
- Sally Berry: sandpiperberry@gmail.com Canon EOS R & R5 Mirrorless

Nikon Cameras:

- Stuart Wilson: stuarttwilson@gmail.com
- Ron Williams: 805-448-4995 especially the D800 and D7000 series

Fujifilm Cameras:

- David Auston: dauston@cox.net

Sony Cameras:

- Pat Birdsell: pbnana4@gmail.com 805-231-2207

If you would like to volunteer as a camera expert, please email:
president@cccameraclub.com.

Critique This Image!



Untitled

An anonymous member has submitted this photograph for member comment. Click the link below and tell us what you like about this photo and what you might suggest that the photographer do to strengthen it. It's all anonymous - we'll share the comments next month:

Please, don't JUST read this!

[CLICK HERE TO PROVIDE CRITIQUE AND/OR COMMENTS](#)

Do you have an image you want to be critiqued?

Send it in with or without a title to president@cccameraclub.com

We'll put it in an upcoming Angle and ask for member comment

Comments from May's Critique



Carousel Horse

- I always love carousel horses and I've shot a few in my time. It's a happy subject
- I like the mood. The dark background and the side view of the horse's mouth give me the sense of some impending doom or sadness. The scene is empty of people, which adds to this interpretation. This story contrasts with the viewer's expectation because a merry-go-round is usually a happy place.
- It's almost there but needs a little more work. Some of the things I would do if it were mine are as follows: I would bring the exposure up and maybe a touch of vibrance or saturation. A happy subject should be bright and colorful. The lighting on the foreground element helps separate it from the background. This is a case where I would NOT lighten up the shadows. The background should stay darker. I would definitely straighten the image by making the poles vertical. Unfortunately, a straight rotation will cut off some of the image. There's room to spare at the top and right but you don't want to lose any more of the horse. I would have lowered the camera or increased the angle to take in more of the bottom of the horse but re-shooting the scene may not be possible. One way to help fix the poles without losing more of the bottom would be in Photoshop, under the Edit menu, go to Transform, then Skew. Grab the upper right corner and drag it to the right. This will distort the whole image a bit but I think you can get away with it in this case.
- If the mood is not supposed to be reminiscent of doom or sadness, I would suggest a tonal shift with the background. Maybe a radial filter adding warm colors and accentuating the lights.
- I like the background of the other horses being darkened instead of their natural colorful colors adding a business to the background. Even though taken on an angle seems that it needs to be straightened.

TECH TALK: BOKEH - by NIKON Learn and Explore

What Does Bokeh Mean?

Bokeh comes from the Japanese word boke (ボケ), which means "blur" or "haze", or boke-aji, the "blur quality." Bokeh is pronounced BOH-Kə or BOH-kay.

Visit any photography website or forum and you'll find plenty of folks debating the pleasing bokeh that their favorite fast lenses allow.

Adjectives that describe bokeh include: smooth, incredible, superb, good, beautiful, sweet, silky, and excellent... but what exactly is it?

What is Bokeh?

Bokeh is defined as "the effect of a soft out-of-focus background that you get when shooting a subject, using a fast lens, at the widest aperture, such as f/2.8 or wider." Simply put, bokeh is the pleasing or aesthetic quality of the out-of-focus blur in a photograph.

Best Aperture for Bokeh

To achieve bokeh in an image, you need to use a fast lens—the faster the better. You'll want to use a lens with at least an f/2.8 aperture, with faster apertures of f/2, f/1.8 or f/1.4 being ideal. Many like to use fast prime lenses when shooting photographs that they want visible bokeh in.

Best Lens for Bokeh

Although bokeh is actually a characteristic of a photograph, the lens used determines the shape and size of the visible bokeh. Usually seen more in highlights, bokeh is affected by the shape of the diaphragm blades (the aperture) of the lens. A lens with more circular shaped blades will have rounder, softer orbs of out-of-focus highlights,

whereas a lens with an aperture that is more hexagonal in shape will reflect that shape in the highlights.

Don't worry if you don't own a very fast lens. By increasing the distance between the background and your subject, you can see bokeh in images that are shot at smaller apertures like f/8.

How to Achieve Bokeh

To increase the likelihood of creating visible bokeh in your photographs, increase the distance between your subject and the background. You can do this by decreasing the distance between the camera and the subject. The more shallow the depth-of-field, or further the background is, the more out-of-focus it will be. Highlights hitting the background will show more visible bokeh too, so if you're using a backlight, side light, or hair light, the bokeh may be more pleasing to the eye.

Bokeh Camera Settings

You'll want to shoot with the lens wide open, so you'll want to use a shooting mode of Aperture Priority or Manual. Manual gives you the ability to choose both your aperture and shutter speed, whereas Aperture Priority allows you to choose the f/stop while the camera chooses the appropriate shutter speed for the exposure. You could also use the Flexible Program mode, choosing the widest possible aperture/shutter speed combination.

Bokeh in Portraits

The most photographed subjects showing nice examples of bokeh are portraits. Close-up portraits show bokeh very well. Close-up and macro images of flowers and other objects in nature are also popular subjects to photograph that shows off bokeh in the image.

An often-photographed subject that is an extreme example of bokeh is photographing a grouping of holiday lights or other highly reflective objects. When purposely photographed out-of-focus, these normally harsh or bright objects become soft, pastel, diffused orbs of glowing light.

Bokeh can add softness to an otherwise brightly lit photograph. Using this technique to separate your subject from the background can also allow you to utilize a not-so-photogenic background in your image—but because of its diffused blur, it helps to “highlight” the subject, not detract from it.



MEMBER NEWS



BLOOM

Santa Barbara Summer Solstice 2021

Summer Solstice 2021 is a virtual event again this pandemic year. There is a virtual parade and community videos. The theme is Bloom.

Blooming Gardens will be blooming all over the community at businesses and residences decorated to promote the theme. A Blooming Garden Guide will be on the Solstice website.



We will so sadly miss our annual camera club field trip at the Solstice Parade and the fun photos we shared after.

<https://www.solsticeparade.com/>

"Photograph: a picture painted by the sun
without instruction in art."

- Ambrose Bierce

Pack your suitcase for your trip through the lens and a member's journal . . . Getting ready to travel internationally - Am I really going? - by Linda Kavanagh

Well, this present trip I have been out the door since March, then April, May now it is the END OF JUNE. At least I am a last-minute packer and hadn't had my bags sitting at the door. March was planned as that was when I figured I would have finished my vaccination time period and I would have received my renewed passport that I had to have expedited as it did not have a six-month validity left if I went for a couple of months. If I sent it in with normal processing it could have taken three months to get back.

Portugal my destination had been open to tourism for several months. It is now under the "Situation of Calamity" until May 30, closed down again to tourists for the second time Jan 5th and will reopen from lockdown in four phases expected to reopen Mar 15th. In March the new strains of the covid virus from the UK, South Africa, and India began springing up and countries tightened their borders. Portugal has locked down again and even residents could not move around their own country. Movement has opened now to the EU but not to US tourists. That is set to open in mid-June.

The other countries I plan to visit are Spain and Morocco down the line so I have been keeping an eye on what has been their virus data as well.

Most concerning is all the virus testing I will be having to comply with and the costs involved. Also, note that each country requires entry health forms to be filled out which can be found on your airline's website. Some I have noticed have to be filled prior to flight time. Make sure you also carry your covid vaccination card with you and take a copy of it for your files in case you lose it. Portugal did require a test after arrival the last reopening.

Some countries do have that as a requirement. I have noted from a client that she was able to submit her international covid test receipt to her health insurance company on her return to the States and was reimbursed. I must say they have not been very forthright on the internet about that in my searches. So, keep that in mind.

The land borders have opened up between Portugal and Spain now as of April 30. All this jumping about and getting on planes which require a covid test prior you might as well have a medkit in your pocket at all times. Apparently, they can be had on the internet. One more thing to research and find out how you get your results and whether it is dependable and within the 72 hour period valid for airline policy requirements. I did see they were about \$150 a pop.

My research has enlightened me to a new avenue of arriving in Morocco by land and ferry via Gibraltar that I was not aware of. Like I said, "You learn something every day". My old standby route through Ceuta revealed today that it is inundated with African migrants swimming in and rushing the border. 8000 crossing in the past week and the Spanish military has been called in.

Now, to get around the country, I have to find out about the train passes and the museum passes/monument passes and combo passes and whether they are worth getting or which ones are on offer. I swear it takes a Harvard graduate to figure all this out. Even as a travel consultant I rarely have my clients get them as they are never in a place long enough to make full use of the offer and they offer so much I cannot make the decisions for them anyway. Eurail passes, about a dozen different kinds now have to be obtained prior to leaving the USA so I have to compare that to whatever they have in country that may be applicable for

a senior if such a beast exists and compare that to a Portugal and Spain combination. Now considering that I have had no work for the past year and nothing much in the foreseeable future I am probably traveling much like the first time I had set foot in Lisbon. Student fare, bottom of the boat on the last voyage of the Leonardo Da Vinci sailing from New York on a two-week Med cruise \$160.00. Lisbon was our first stop. So with very little in my pockets for this round, I have to make sure every penny counts. Hitchhiking this trip just isn't going to make it like it did that time. What helps this time is I have the internet to work things out ahead of time and some 40 years of a travel career to boot. Back then I had a thumb and it took me wherever I needed to get to on a wing and a prayer, not even a map! Pup tent and a backpack. Oh yeah, and the brand new camera, just a point and shoot? I left that in the first transfer car I took. Never took a picture the 2 ½ years I was gone! I have found out that since I plan on an extended stay, both Portugal and Spain have 50% off senior rates for their train systems within their countries and I don't need to deal with the Eurail passes.

Next, I started researching the best places to photograph in Lisbon. Of course, the iconic UNESCO sites are on the list but I wanted some out-of-the-norm spots. I found a couple. An old industrial area converted to artist space with painted wall displays on the warehouses and roadside is cobblestones. Cozy little restaurants. A hidden gem of an area. Around the corner from that is the Village Underground. Fashioned out of brightly colored shipping containers stacked on top of each other house eateries and offices. Walkways along the steep stone staircases that wind through the Alfama district are like blank canvases for artists,

therefore, make pleasing backdrops for street photography. Since I will be basing myself in Lisbon and staying in an apartment. I took a look at day trips out of the city and there are easily 17 different places to reach in under 2 hours, including several different beaches. My for sure list already planned are Sintra, a ½ hour away is a resort town, a royal sanctuary studded with pastel-colored villas and palaces. The cultural landscape of Sintra is on the UNESCO list and several palaces and monuments are part of that heritage. Nazare, once only a fishing village now renowned big wave surfers mecca and beach resort. The colossal waves 100 footers that break off of Praia do Norte beach and ridden and filmed successfully a few times now have put this sleepy village on the global map. Unfortunately, since I am there in the summer the waves will not be breaking. Just my luck.

Week-long stays will be in the north in Porto. To drink the port of course. On the coast, Porto gives you as much cobbled-street charm and dazzling ancient architecture as you'll get anywhere else in Europe. Steep cobbled streets, red-tiled roofs, and intricate baroque churches give the city much of its character by way of North Africa and Spain. Since Portugal stayed neutral in the war it never was bombed so there is a lot of historical architecture still intact. The river Douro will take you into the heart of the wine region but I will be touring the cellars of the city tasting the ruby red liquid.

Next month I should be adding my photos directly from Portugal to continue my journal...just hope I am going!!!!

Suitcase pack now...

And let us take a moment to our past heroes and to our current heroes. We owe them our gratitude for everything they have sacrificed for our freedom of life and liberty.

MENTOR PROGRAM

DAVID AUSTON

The purpose of the Camera Club's Mentorship Program is to help both incoming and current members improve their photographic skills, learn to use software and hardware, participate in print and digital image exhibitions, and in general to become more fully integrated into the many diverse activities of the Club. To accomplish this goal, a group of more experienced active members of the Club have volunteered to be mentors, offering advice in the following areas:

- Choosing and using camera equipment and lenses that match your photography interests.
- Digital post-processing: Lightroom & Photoshop & other software programs
- The digital darkroom: choosing a computer, monitor & storage system • Some basic principles of composition
- Basic principles of lighting • Black & white photography • Preparing and submitting an image for the Club exhibitions • Printing your own prints and/or using a print service
- Other assistance as needed, just ask.
-

Mentors, their areas of expertise and a brief bio will be found in the Club's Current Annual Guide. Contact information for each mentor is also are listed below.

Incoming and current members (mentees) who wish to seek advice on one or more of the foregoing areas should directly contact the appropriate mentor listed. If you need help selecting a mentor or have questions or concerns about being a mentor or mentee or how the Program works, please contact David Auston, who coordinates the program (dauston@cox.net; cell: 805.570.0206).

List of Mentors & Contact Information:

David Auston (dauston@cox.net; cell: 805.570.0206).

Bill Banning (wb@williambanning.com; cell: 858.229.9250). Editing software, MacOS operating system, Zoom support.

Judith Barat (baratjudith@gmail.com; 612.360.4977). Mentoring beginning photographers. She uses a Canon 5D Mark IV.

Chris Seaton (seatopwr@gmail.com; 805.403.9839). Assist members to get images ready for competition.

Stephen Sherrill (sfsherrill@earthlink.net; 805.682.4876). General photographic and art mentoring.

Bob Wagener (bob.wagener@gmail.com; cell: 805.452.0800). Bob is available to help with all things film: choosing your format, locating and testing a solid camera, restoration and minor repairs, shooting with film, even scanning your images into digital files for post-processing.

Ron Williams (laladera77@gmail.com; 805.687.4910). Can assist with submitting prints to Club Exhibitions and Nikon cameras.

the mentors



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"ZEBRAS IN THE MORNING FOG" by Bob Rottenberg



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