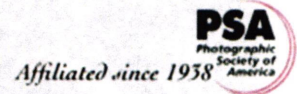




# the Galleon



The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter    December 2025

## President's Message

Hi everyone,

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Holiday Potluck on Dec. 3. Thanks to Penni, Heidi, Janine, Joyce, and Rosie for organizing it. Remember to bring something to share and a gift for the gift exchange. It was so much fun last year!

We will be choosing our special competition categories for next year as well as discussing a year-end project. Bring your ideas. I think a cool year-end project would be to create products from our photos, like coffee mugs, T-shirts, pillows, tools, totes, or whatever. What do you think? See you soon!

Best,  
Jeanne Sparks

**2026 SMCC dues will be due in January.**

**Individual Membership: \$35**

**Family Membership: \$50**

**Competition Dues (*per member, including each person in a family membership*): \$30.**

***Make checks payable to: Santa Maria Camera Club***

Please mail your check to me, Alan, or give it to me at any in-person meeting or event. A perfect time would be on the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Holiday Potluck!

**\*Dues need to be paid by the end of February to participate in competitions!**

***Alan***



Are you ready for the Christmas party?

# *Season's Eatings!*

THE SANTA MARIA CAMERA CLUB INVITES YOU  
TO THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Merrill Gardens

Jingle Mingle 6:30-7:00 pm

Potluck Dinner 7:00-8:00

Holiday Gift Exchange 8:00-9:00

(Maximum gift value \$20.00)

Be on the lookout for more  
details soon!

-Penni



### **Special Subjects 2026**

The final list of subjects that will be voted on at Holiday Potluck is presented here. I appreciate your suggestions, and it will be a challenge to pick just three.

Action	Aging and the elderly	Astrophotography
Birds	Bird's eye view	Birth and death
Cityscapes	Creative self-portraiture	Decay and abandonment
Diptychs, triptychs and more	Farms and farming	Fine art photography
Food	Forests and trees	From afar
Infrared	Humor	Landscapes
Long exposure	Macro photography	Nature
On the ground	People in their environment	Portrait series
Seascapes	Shadows	Still Life
Transportation	Travel	Umbrellas and parasols
Underwater	Wildlife	Worm's eye view

### **2026 SMCC Board of Directors**

At our **November 5th in-person meeting at Merrill Gardens** we held our annual election for next year's board.

#### **The unanimous results:**

- **President**, Jeanne Sparks
- **Vice-President**, Heidi Gruetzmacher
- **Secretary**, Frank Tromp
- **Treasurer**, Alan Upshaw

**At Large" board members.** Dian Thomsen, Penni Powell, Nyla James, Harold Litwiler, Jim McKinniss, Flavio Parigi.

We thank all members for stepping forward and thank outgoing Vice-President Elaine Calvert for her service.

***Alan Upshaw***

**SMCC Nominating Committee**



# NOVEMBER COMPETITION RESULT

Judge: Stephanie Secrest

## Digital Monochrome

1ST PLACE	Riders bring in the bulls	Harold Litwiler
2ND PLACE	Calla curves	Elaine Calvert
3RD PLACE	The storm is coming	Ron Calvert
HONORABLE MENTION	Glen Rio New Mexico	Ed E Powell

## Digital color

1ST PLACE	Wild at heart	Janine Bognuda
2ND PLACE	He thinks he is royalty	Janine Bognuda
3RD PLACE	Tranquil tableau	Ed E Powell
HONORABLE MENTION	Avocet	Frank Tromp
HONORABLE MENTION	Utah Buttes at sunrise	Janine Bognuda

*Congratulation to everyone*



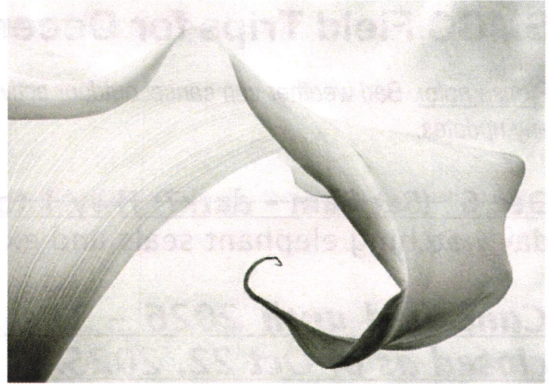
Jeanine Bognuda



Harold Litwiler



By Jeanine Bognuda



By Elaine Calvert



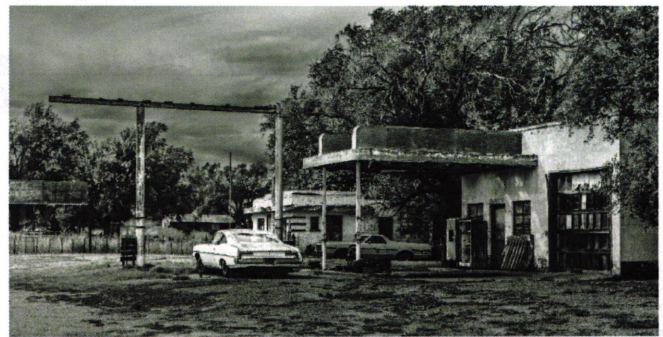
By Ed E Powell



By Ron Calvert



By Jeanine Bognuda



By Ed E Powell



By Frank tromp



## SMCC Field Trips for December 2025 by Penni Powell

Please note: Bad weather can cancel outdoor activities. Contact the leader if you are in doubt. Check your email for any updates.

**Dec 6<sup>th</sup> (Sat 8am – dark?) Hwy 1 to Limekiln State Park and Return** Spend the day watching elephant seals and exploring Limekiln State Park.

**Cancelled until 2026 – The state park website says Limekiln is closed as of Oct 22, 2025.**

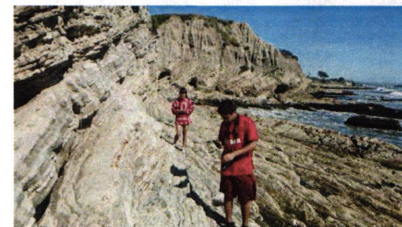
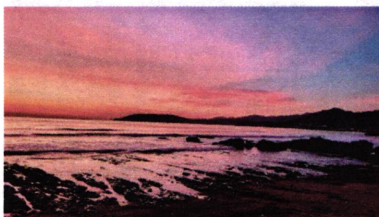
**Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Super Moonrise – Wherever you are, ENJOY!**

**Dec 5<sup>th</sup> (Fri 2:30pm - dinner?) – King Low Tide at Spyglass Park, Shell Beach**  
Tide pooling during a minus 1.91 tide that coincides with sunset.

We meet at 2:30pm at the Nipomo Miners/Starbucks parking lot on West Tefft and Mary Streets (581 W Tefft) for carpool or caravan to Shell Beach's Spyglass Park (2549 Spyglass Drive). We will check out the photo ops in the tidepools there and decide whether to stay for sunset or move to another Shell Beach locale. Dinner afterwards, people's choice. Wear sturdy footwear for the slippery tidepools and be aware of your surroundings at all times. Sneaker waves! Sharks!

Need more info? Contact Penni at [penpowell2020@gmail.com](mailto:penpowell2020@gmail.com)

**Why go? – When the tide is out, it is a perfect time to pause and recharge. Take a close look below the surface for the image that speaks to you.**



## And Beyond...

**January or February? Hwy 1 to Limekiln State Park and Return** Spend the day watching elephant seals and exploring Limekiln State Park. Catch a sunset at 5pm on the coast at low tide. Thanks, Flavio, for suggesting this trip.

Got an idea? Email Penni at [penpowell2020@gmail.com](mailto:penpowell2020@gmail.com)

# USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

## Meetings

In December there will be a program meeting (November 5) with the Christmas party but no competition meeting

## Location

Our first meeting of every month will be held at Merrill Garden Retirements Center at 1350 N. Suey Road, Santa Maria. The second meeting will be via Webex.

If you want to participate, *please send an email to* [santamariacameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:santamariacameraclub@gmail.com)

## Membership dues

\$ 35 per person; \$ 50 Family; \$ 30 to participate in the competition meeting. All the due are per year

## 2025 Club officers

President: Jeanne Sparks

Vice President: Elaine Calvert

Secretary: Frank Tromp

Treasurer: Alan Upshaw

## At-large Board Members

Nyla James, Harold Litwiler, Jim McKinniss, Flavio Parigi, Penni Powell, Diane Thomsen

## 2025 Competition Rules

Each member may submit a maximum of 3 total image submissions in any category per competition.

## Categories will be:

Digital Color, Digital Monochrome

## Immediate Past president

Cheryl Decker

## 2025 Special Subjects

March – Altered reality.

June – Celebrate what is right in the world.

September – Intentional camera movement

## Submit your images for digital competition to:

All the digital images can only be submitted by email at this email address [santamariacameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:santamariacameraclub@gmail.com)

All the digital images **MUST** be received no later than the Sunday prior to the Wednesday competition. Images not received on time will not be entered in the competition

## Galleon Director

Flavio Parigi [fparigi@aol.com](mailto:fparigi@aol.com)



## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS & CLUB VOLUNTEERS**

<b>Webmaster</b>	Greg Doudna
<b>Digital Projectionist</b>	Greg Doudna
<b>Slide Projectionist</b>	Ed E. Powel
<b>SMCC Directory &amp; Calendar</b>	Rosie Brancacio
<b>Historian</b>	Nyla James
<b>Judge Recruitment</b>	Harold Litwiler
<b>Saturday Chat</b>	Jim McKinniss
<b>Point Tabulator</b>	Richard Russ & Flavio Parigi
<b>Print Coordinators</b>	Flavio Parigi & Jim Snodgrass
<b>Slide Coordinator</b>	Elaine Calvert
<b>Image scoring</b>	Elaine Calvert, Penni Powell
<b>Program Recruitment</b>	Elaine Calvert
<b>Refreshment</b>	Everyone
<b>PSA Representative</b>	Nyla Janes
<b>Library Coordinator</b>	Ed E Powell
<b>Meeting room setup</b>	Everyone
<b>Membership recruitment</b>	Richard Russ
	Penni Powell, Bob Mihelic, Rosie
	Brancacio, Bonnie Adams, Alan
	Upshaw, Greg Doudna
<b>Field trips</b>	Nyla James
<b>Name Tags</b>	

**"Not everyone trusts paintings, but people believe photographs."**

**— Ansel Adams**