



the Galleon



The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter January 2026

President's Message

Happy New Year!

We are off and running with recent programs for the year and our Awards Reception on Saturday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Lake Marie Valley Club, 2327 Fallen Leaf Drive, Orcutt. It will be a blast! Mark your calendar. More details will be sent later.

We will not have a program meeting on the first Wednesday of January since we are having the awards reception. We will have a competition on the third Wednesday, January 21, at 7 p.m.

See you soon!

Best,
Jeanne Sparks

2026 SMCC dues are now due!

Individual Membership: \$35

Family Membership: \$50

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

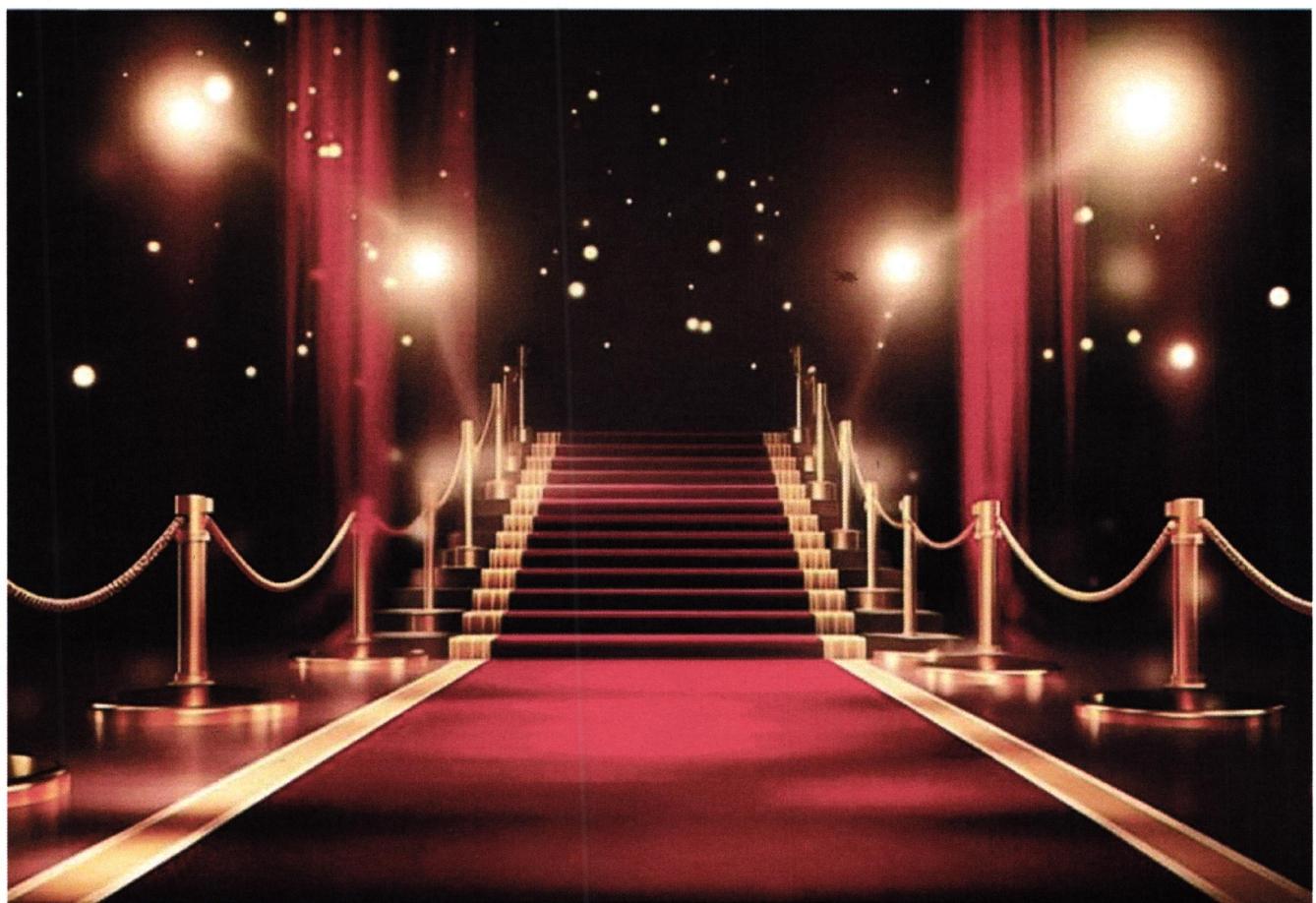
Make checks payable to: Santa Maria Camera Club

Please mail your check to me, Alan, or give it to me at any in-person meeting or event.
The next in-person opportunity will be at the January 24th Awards Ceremony.

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

Alan

**DO NOT FORGET THE SANTA MARIA CAMERA CLUB
AWARDS CEREMONY**



January 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Lake Marie Valley Club, 2327 Fallen Leaf Drive,
Orcutt.



SMCC Field Trips for January 2026 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.

Jan 31st (Sat 8am – dark?) Hwy 1 to Limekiln State Park and Return Spend the day watching elephant seals and exploring Limekiln State Park. Avoid the crowds that will descend on the Big Sur coast once Hwy 1 is reopened later in 2026. Meet at Starbucks in Nipomo (581W Tefft St) for carpool or caravan. Bring water, snacks, and a picnic lunch to eat at Limekiln State Park. Layer clothing for warmth. Gas up the drive so you do not pay the extra unreasonable prices on Hwy 1. The first stop is at the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery. The high tide (+6.46 at 8:17am) will push the seals, including the moms and pups, up the beach toward the boardwalk, making it easier to photograph them. Next, we head up Hwy 1 to Limekiln State Park. Hiking trails, beach access, and picnic tables for lunch await. The day use vehicle fee is \$10 cash/\$9 for seniors. We want to make the drive South on Hwy 1 in daylight. The group will decide if a beach sunset, dinner out, or just head home is the finale of a successful photo field trip.

Need more info? Contact Penni at penpowell2020@gmail.com

Why go? – Like the Elephant Seal, move with patience, for the ocean rewards those who endure. Do not rush but wait for the right moment to push the shutter button.



Thanks, Flavio, for suggesting this trip!

And Beyond...

Got an idea? Email Penni at penpowell2020@gmail.com

Meetup Announcements: Kicking off 2026 with 3 Meetups in January!

Meetup link: <https://www.meetup.com/nature-photography-group-of-the-central-coast-of-ca/>

Jan 3rd: Monarch Butterfly Grove

Jan 6th: Webinar- creating online albums from Lightroom (Details below)

Jan 17th: Elephant Seal Rookery

Free Webinar: Lightroom Collections and How to Easily Create Online Albums. January 6th, 2026, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Join me for a free photography online seminar designed for anyone using or considering the Adobe Photography Plans and Creative Cloud ecosystem. Whether you are on Windows or Mac, this session will help you understand Lightroom Classic's Library module, folder structure, and how Collections can simplify your workflow. I will show you how to use Collections for sorting, organizing, experimenting, and sharing, and how to easily create online albums for both private and public use. You will also learn how to customize albums for feedback and proofing and how to use Lightroom's online tools to build a simple free website. For more details and registration visit: <https://adiringer.com/lightroom-collections-free-webinar/>

Announcing new trips for 2026 and 2027:

- Tanzania: Feb 1st to the 10th, 2027. \$7,500 double occupancy.
- Costa Rica: May 7 – 15, 2026 \$4,495 double occupancy.
- Costa Rica: April 22 – 30, 2027 \$4,495 double occupancy.

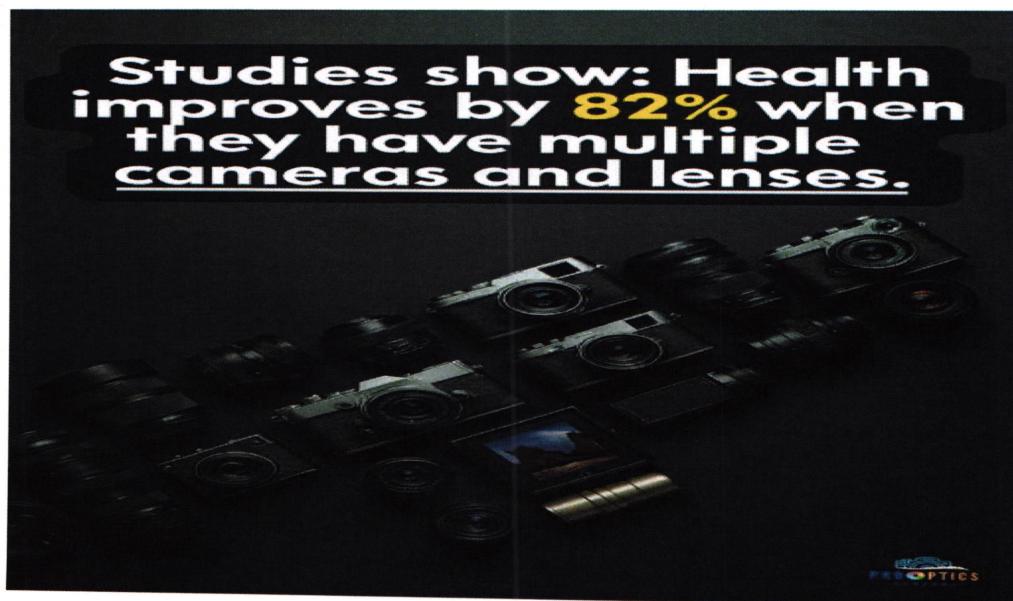
Flights not included, limited to 8 people. In Tanzania, 3 photographers max. per vehicle.

Check out the website for full details <https://adiringer.com/> or contact me:

Adi Ringer

Email: adi@adiringer.com

Mobile: 805-610-5527



USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

Meetings

In January there will not be a program meeting but there will be a competition meeting (January 21)

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

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: Heidy Gruetzmacher
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 – Landscape.
June – Macro Photography.
September – Still Life

Submit your images for digital competition to:

All the digital images can only be submitted by email at this email address 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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & CLUB VOLUNTEERS

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

"Adequate photographers use their sight, good photographer uses their senses, and great photographers use their soul."

— A. J. Compton