



# the Galleon



## The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter March 2020

### Date to remember in March

March 4 - Program meeting at 7:00 pm at Merrill Gardens

March 6 – Field trip to Orcutt for night shot opportunity

March 7 - Saturday chat at Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria

March 18 - Competition Meeting at 7:00 pm at Merrill Gardens Subject: Night Shots

### President's Message

I am not certain if February's competition included more images than ever judged but it seemed the most entered images that I can recall in my time with SMCC. With a good social time, we ran a bit long however most were discussing photography or camera issues and it is great that we are learning from each other. Mike Collins judged our images similar to the professional judging done at Gold Coast. He was tough (maybe even 'brutal') but he was constructive, and I appreciate his comments. Every tidbit and nuance that can be learned will make us better at this passion.

March competition is "night shots" ... this should be interesting. I am anxious to see what you bring for Sandra Cortez to judge.

Time to start thinking about the year-end project. Plan to do at least one book. I suggest noodling some themes and putting a folder(s) on your desktop or in LR collections to drop images into. If you have more than one idea, great. You can make up to 3 books. Consider partnering with someone on this project...just don't wait until November, like me, to start working on this.

Rather than write a separate article I am going to include some thoughts here about the recent Death Valley and Lone Pine trip led by Penny Powell. Larry and I had been there 23 years ago for a marathon and thought Death Valley seemed rather stark and boring. Wouldn't you know?!... we returned on the weekend of the very same marathon! This created a problem since I had procrastinated on booking a room and they were all filled by marathoners. Larry and I ended up staying about 40 miles outside of DV in a bed and breakfast called "Shady Lady". Despite the name and long drives to the park, it turned out to be a cute and comfortable cabin. At first glance,

Death Valley STILL seemed stark and boring but with Penny's guidance we began exploring some amazingly beautiful places and at just the right time of day for good light. Penny and Ed are good leads to follow! We had not been to Lone Pine and the Alabama Hills previously. What a treat! The rocks and the mobius arch and Mt Whitney are just breathtaking. We stayed in a cool 1927 hotel nearby .... the same place John Wayne stayed when he filmed many Westerns in that area. By coincidence .... Greg Doudna, the Powells and the Deckers each had vehicle issues. All things were repaired, and it was good to have friends to help. Additionally, my trusty Sony a6500 shutter froze closed on the first day of the trip so I was "forced" to use Larry's second Nikon. This was a good lesson, always take more than one camera body on a photography trip! As I only have one camera, that has given me an excuse and the bug for a second camera. Hmmm, birthday in April.

**Cheryl**

### **Editor's Message**

Have you ever thought about how lucky we are? Not only are we able to follow our passion and shoot photographs, we're also able to belong to this interactive, creative and supportive camera club. To demonstrate this point, let me tell you about my personal experience with my first camera club in Italy, and how it was one of the most boring and discouraging experiences imaginable. I recall meeting for 3 hours in which a photographer spoke in great detail about the "mastery" of his own work and suggested that we may want to consider whether we wanted to waste our time and money on pursuing our hobby. On my arrival to the US I found the Santa Maria Camera Club online and wanted to give it a chance. A bit skeptical, I attended the next Wednesday night meeting, and found a group of friendly and likeminded photographers excitedly exchanging views and techniques. I have so many friends here and have met an incredible number of interesting people who encourage stimulation and openness to learning.

Now, some important dates and club information for members to take NOTE of:

In the last board meeting we decided that with in every competition held, the photographer who shot the winning image (in every category), can explain in a 30 second statement some technical information about the photo; this may provide others a chance to improve their skills. Statement should include information about lens, time and aperture, filter, tripod .... Come prepared to share with all the members.

May 27 – The next Board meeting will be at 7pm at Merrill Garden

May 30 - An invitation has been extended to the home of our president, Cheryl Decker and husband Larry, for the Annual picnic party.

December 9 – Our annual Christmas Potluck will be held at the same place, Casa Grande Park in Santa Maria.

**Flavio**



## March 4 Program: Focusing on our National Parks

The United States is blessed to be home to many National Parks, National Monuments, National Historic Sites and Trails, some of which are in our area, and others less than a day's drive. These protected areas are an endless source of inspiration and imagination for photographers. Many Santa Maria Camera Club members visit these special places on a regular basis, and we have had many field trips to our parks, including a recent trip to Death Valley.

Our program tonight will be a way to share your favorite images from National Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites, Trails, or any Federally protected site. Try to keep it around 10 images per person. Videos of a reasonable length are fine as well. Also, have any images from National Parks around the world, in other countries? Please share those as well.

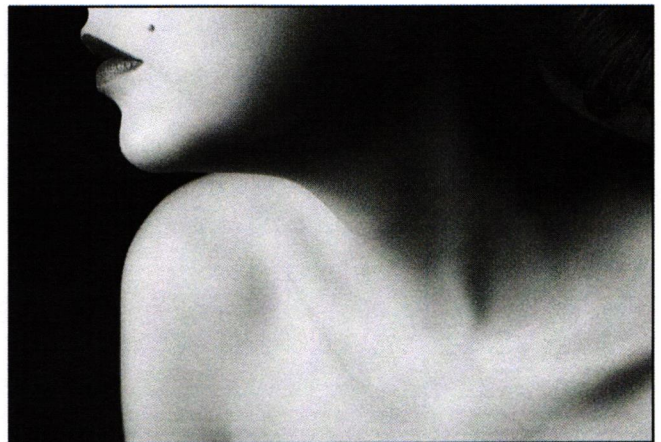
Images can be emailed to Greg at [gndoudna@gmail.com](mailto:gndoudna@gmail.com) or brought into the meeting before it gets started.

**Alan**

**A couple of photos from Jim McKinniss**



Performer at St Giorgio



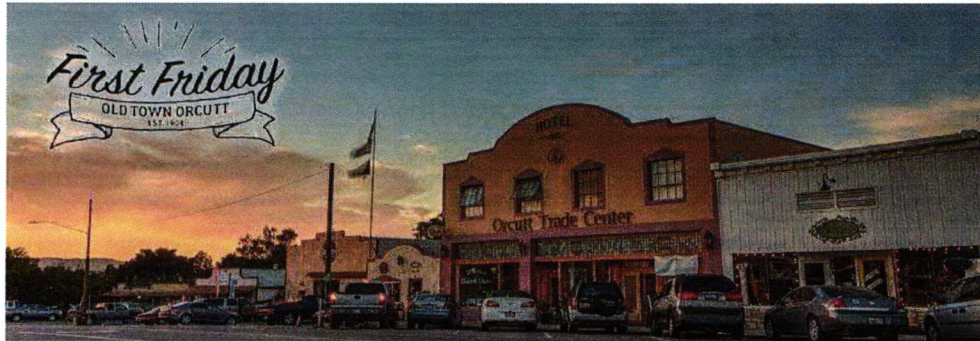
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**SMCC Field Trips for March 2020** by Penni Powell 805.363.1931  
penpowell2020@gmail.com

Please note: Rain or bad weather can cancel outdoor activities. Contact the leader if you are in doubt.

***Check your email for any updates.***

**March 6<sup>th</sup> First Friday in Old Orcutt (Fri 5:00 – 8:30pm)** Sunset is at 6pm. This is a chance to do some night photography for the special category competition in March.



Meet in front of Jack's Restaurant (156 S Broadway) off Clark Avenue at 5pm in Old Orcutt. Shoot as sun sets and the golden hour light lingers, replaced by the lights around town. Businesses will be open later and, to be polite, first ask if it would be alright to photograph interior of places. Handy stuff would be a jacket and other warm duds, a tripod, and other gadgets for long exposures and light painting, etc. Share your favorite tips and techniques! We can regroup and have dinner about 7pm, attendee's choice. Afterwards, those interested can resume photographing as conditions allow.

**Why Go? "The camera sees more than the eye, so why not make use of it?" - Edward Weston**

**Other monthly events:** Be on the lookout for Rosie's emailed calendar. *Thanks, Rosie!*

**and Beyond...**

**April 11th (Sat) - Rivers Horse Trials in Paso Robles**

<http://twinrivershorsepark.com>



**May – Club Picnic May 30**

**June – Port San Luis Lighthouse Tour?**

**July – Enjoy your summer**



## Points North and East for March 2020

March is usually the prime month for Central Coast wildflowers. The Beach Dunes, Sea Bluffs and some Coastal Scrub plant zone's wildflowers will continue to happen and usually peak in March. The Sealth Image, "Morro Dune Flowers (SR115)", shows the flowers near Morro Rock. Also the Chaparral, Oak Grassland, Oak Woodland, and Streamside Woodland wildflowers should peak. Lopez Lake Rec. Area, Santa Margarita Lake Rec. Area, Montana De Oro SP, and Lake San Antonio Rec. Area are locations to checkout. Carrizo Plains wildflowers may also be peaking. And continue checking Shell Creek. March is usually the month for waterfalls and wildflowers along the Big Sur coastline and wildflowers in the Big Sur eastern valleys especially Carmel Valley Road and San Antonio Mission. Also Pinnacles National Monument often has wildflowers but with a short season.

Watch for Vernal Pools during March and April. Obviously these are very dependent on the rainfall amounts and pattern. With its heavy rainfall in January and February 2008 was a great year for vernal pools. Laguna Lake Open Space may have Vernal Pools. Also look for Vernal Pools in San Simeon SP and Carrizo Plains. In the Sierra western foothills, McKenzie Big Table Mountain Preserve NE of Fresno usually has Vernal Pools. And look for them in the eastern San Joaquin Valley. Usually March is the start of the San Joaquin Valley wildflowers. Fresno's Blossom Trail usually peaks the first or second weekend. Also the Sierra foothills north, east and southeast of Fresno often have extensive wildflower displays. The wildflowers at Hite Cove, west of El Portal, are often spectacular during late March and early April. The California Lilac is not really a Lilac but a Ceanothus! However with their spectacular blue-purple haze color, almost tree size, and chaparral dominance, they are worthy of being called the California "Lilac". They are actually about a half dozen species of Ceanothus. They bloom in March - April and can found on the Questa Grade, along Hwy 41 between Atascadero and Morro Bay, north of Piedras Blanco, along Big Sur and at Point Lobos. In 2004-2005 the California Lilacs dominated the recovery succession after the Hwy 41 fire making a forest of bluish purple. Look at recent forest fire areas for a repeat.

Please provide additions, corrections and comments via e-mail, [jimogg@tcsn.net](mailto:jimogg@tcsn.net), and visit the website, [www.tcsn.net/ogg](http://www.tcsn.net/ogg). Text and Images are copyrighted by Jim Ogg. All rights reserved. Please see website for details.



**Santa Maria Camera Club  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 2, 2019  
DRAFT**

Call to order:

A meeting of the Santa Maria Camera Club was held at Merrill Gardens on October 2, 2019. The call to order was at 8:40 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Jeanne Sparks, Jim Ogg, Sharon Salerno, Flavio Parigi, Cheryl Decker, Nyla James, Alan Upshaw, Bill Hood, Ramona Cashmore

Board members not in attendance: Rosie Brancacio, Richard Russ

Guests: Bob Ginn, Ron Calvert, Elaine Calvert, Tony Martindale

Approval of Minutes:

The Board read the draft of the minutes from the meeting held on May 14, 2019. No changes made. Cheryl Decker motioned to approve the minutes and Flavio Parigi seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the Board.

Treasurer's report: Read by treasurer Bill Hood. As of October 2, 2019, there is \$1311.59 in the club's account and there are 44 paid members. The club received a \$50 donation in memory of past member Joseph Shrock.

Unfinished/Old business

1. Nominations committee report from Alan Upshaw

A. Board

- i. Jim Ogg, Sharon Salerno and Ramona Cashmore are retiring from the Board
- ii. Nyla James, Tony Martindale and Flavio Parigi are nominees for at-large board members
- iii. Bill Hood is nominated to remain as treasurer, Alan Upshaw is nominated to remain as vice president
- iv. Cheryl Decker has been nominated as president
- v. Rosie Brancacio will remain as secretary if no one else will take this position
- vi. Board needs: 3 at large members and a secretary

B. Club positions

- i. Ramona will not produce the Galleon newsletter next year. Flavio might produce the newsletter if no one else will do this.
- ii. A "judge finder" is needed.

2. Potluck Christmas Party

- i. \$50 approved previously for David to provide 'set up' of facility
- ii. Nyla and Joyce will take care of decorations

3. Awards and Installation Dinner

A new date was confirmed for this event, Saturday January 25, 2020

- i. Cheryl will confirm that the Magic Dragon will reserve this date. Also, she will confirm the price including tax and tip. Last year restaurant the price was \$15. We added \$4 to the ticket price. This year we may add \$5 to cover expenses.
- ii. The theme will be 'Roaring Twenties.' Nyla will ask Joyce to help her with decorating for the theme
- iii. Ramona will prepare the invitations and have them for distribution at the Christmas Party so few will need mailing. Office Depot printed them last year



- iv. Jeanne will prepare the program Sharon will send her last year's program
- v. Nyla will arrange for the entertainment
- vi. Ramona and Jeanne will co-chair the event
- vii. Jeanne will order the awards from Grand Awards, three weeks before the Awards Dinner. Bill Hood will pick up the awards when they are ready and bring them to the Dinner. Penni Powell needs to bring the Shepard Award to the December potluck so it can be engraved with the name of this year's winner
- viii. The new president will not be installed until after the first competition. It was agreed that the presumptive president, Cheryl Decker will lead the January competition meeting
- ix. Larry Decker must collect all winning images from the library and bring them to the November competition so they can be judged for the awards dinner
- x. Richard Russ will email all print and slide winners for the year so that they can bring their images to the November competition meeting for awards dinner judging. He should do that in the next week or two. Winners of digital image competitions will not need to provide their qualifying images since Greg will give those files to Richard or Dave. Richard and Dave will arrange for a judge to determine the winning images in each category for the Awards banquet
- xi. The 2019 photo book projects must be provided to Bob Ginn by January 4, 2020. He and Jim McKinniss will get someone to judge the photo books for the awards dinner. They will come up with prizes for the winners.

#### 4. Membership Recruitment

- A. Bob Ginn tried recruitment at the county fair without success.
- B. Other ideas discussed
  - i. Next meeting discuss ideas to include Merrill Gardens residents
  - ii. Pass out information at Allan Hancock College
  - iii. Ramona will if she can speak briefly to a photography class about SMCC
  - iv. Jim McKinniss is taking photography class at Hancock and Bob Ginn will ask him if he has opportunities to promote SMCC
  - v. Cheryl Decker will approach the YMCA about opportunities to promote SMCC, maybe provide a photography class?
  - vi. Business card printing would be a good idea so we can all pass them out to interested acquaintances

#### 5. Phone photography

- i. It was decided that a separate competition category for this is not needed
- ii. Alan Upshaw will do a February 2020 program on iPhone and iPad photography including apps

#### 6. Thanks to Ron Calvert for the new color corrected LED lights

7. The last Galleon for 2019 will be published late November and will cover December and January.

8. A card signed by club members was sent to Joseph Shrock's niece and great niece thanking them for their contributions (\$25 each) honoring Mr. Shrock.

New Business – none & Announcements -none

Meeting Adjourned - motion by Jim Ogg and second by Ramona Cashmore.

# February competition result

**Judge: Michael Collins**

## MONOCHROME PRINTS

1ST PLACE	Addiction	Scott Clark
2ND PLACE	Sailing of LaJolla	Janine Bognuda
3RD PLACE	The Guardian	Elaine Calvert

## SMALL PRINTS

1ST PLACE	Catch	Janine Bognuda
2ND PLACE	Flying with style	Scott Clark
3RD PLACE	Dahlia in black & white	Elaine Calvert

## COLOR PRINTS

1ST PLACE	The check point	Bob Ginn
2ND PLACE	Dark forest	Ted Maddux
3RD PLACE	The yellow kitten	Bob Ginn

## DIGITAL IMAGES

1ST PLACE	Eastern state pen	Nyla James
2ND PLACE	Possum drool	Frank Tromp
3RD PLACE	La vender	Frank Tromp
Honorable mention	Balloon view of a Tuscany town	Rosie Brancacio
Honorable mention	Landlocked	Tony Martindale

## SLIDE

1ST PLACE	Where to go	Flavio Parigi
2ND PLACE	It's a cold day	Flavio Parigi
3RD PLACE	Wildfire recovery	Penni Powell

*Congratulation to everyone*

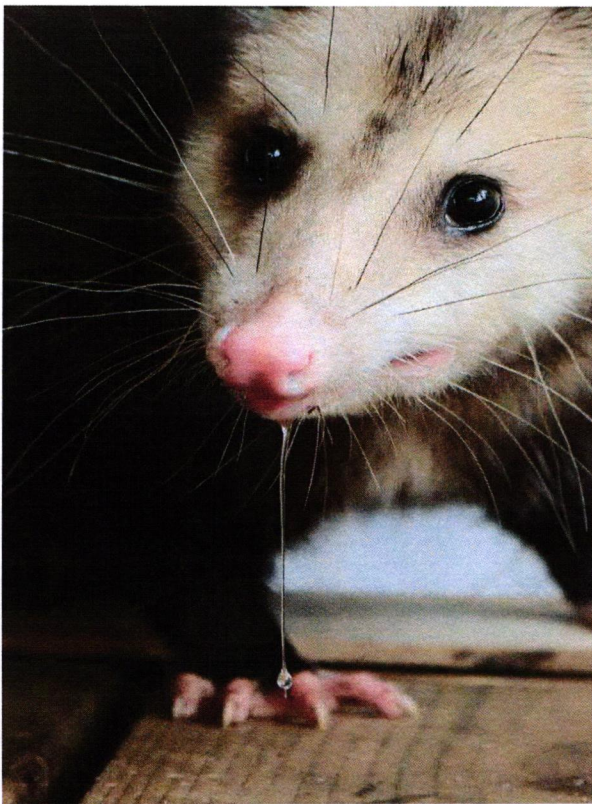




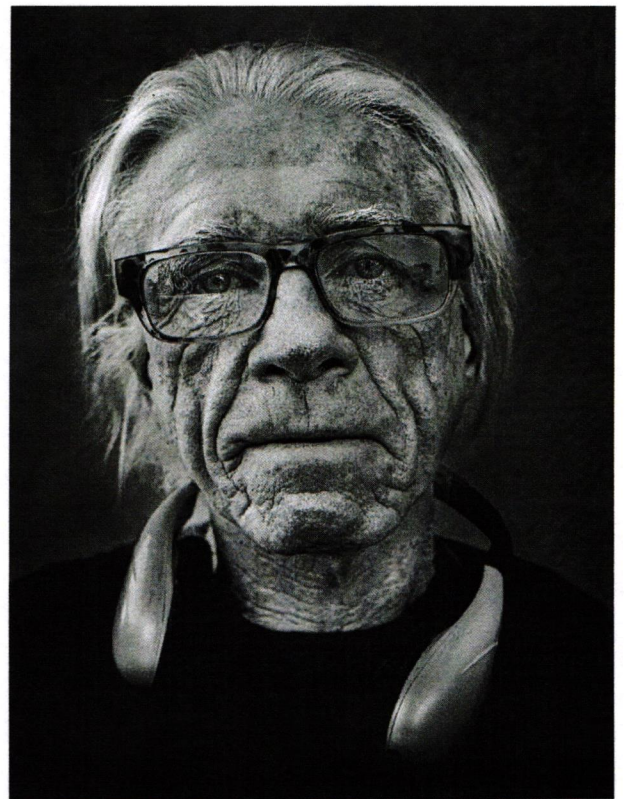
Landlocked  
by Tony Martindale



Eastern state pen  
by Nyla James



Possum drool  
by Frank Tromp



Addiction  
By Scott Clark

## SMCC 2019 WINNERS

### MONOCHROME PRINTS

Diminishing Spheres

Ron Calvert

### SMALL PRINTS

West bound flight

Scott Clark

### LARGE COLOR PRINT

Mongolian eagle hunter

Tedd Maddux

### DIGITAL IMAGE

Santa Barbara window

Tony Martindale

### SLIDE

Raindrops on green

Penni Powell

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE

1ST PLACE

Gobi desert caravan

Ted Maddux

2ND PLACE

Frog on the other side of the leaf

Ted Maddux

3RD PLACE

Diving with style

Janine Bognuda

### HIGH POINT AWARDS

Small prints

Bob Ginn

Monochrome prints

Jim Mckinniss

Color prints

Elaine Calvert

Slide

Flavio Parigi

Digital images

Chuck Ubele

Photographer of the year

Jim McKinniss

**Shepard Award of the year**

**Alan Upshaw**



Photo from awards banquet





## FOCUS ON CLUB MEMBERS

### **Nyla James**

#### ***Why did you start, and why do you continue, to take pictures?***

I knew I wanted to take pictures when I was very young, probably around 12 years old. I saw some photographs my grandmother had cut from magazines. She asked me to look at them and choose the ones I liked, and she would frame them for me. That's when I knew I wanted to take my own pictures. My love for photography continues to this day!

#### ***Do you shoot color or BW?***

When I joined the SMCC in 1989, I shot color slides. I had my own darkroom, so I also shot and processed B&W. I even won B&W print of the year once when Chris Rainy was big. That was quite something to beat him. Now with digital, I shoot in color and convert to monochrome where I choose.

#### ***The perfect subject for me is .....***

I've always enjoyed architectural subjects, so it only makes sense that I was drawn to the old abandoned buildings. Most of my photography is of inanimate objects, although I also enjoy people photography.

#### ***The best photo I took was .....***

I have one photo that has done very well in competition. The title is "Post Horn Gallop." It's the photo I made when we were doing the year-end photo project and the subject that year was the old horn. I received first place in our club and then I entered it in PSA. That year it won a gold medal. All the medal winners were then entered in a final competition where I took first place and was awarded Small Print of the Year for the entire Photographic Society of America. Every time I think I have my best shot ever, I come up with another one I like even more. As time goes by, I seem to change what I like and what pleases me.

#### ***My next project (or idea or photo) is ....***

I love to look for photo subjects everywhere I go. That's why I have so much fun collecting images of specific subjects such as the empty chairs I just published in my first real book! I'm planning to expand on that and create another book on chairs with some ideas I have for improvements. I always have a project in the back of my mind. I think that is the best way to keep moving forward in photography.

#### ***If I want to go out for my best photo, I will go out alone or with someone else because ....***

I almost always go out alone. When I'm alone, I feel free. The only time I go with someone else is if I'm on a camera club field trip. When I go out shooting with Bob, I must be careful, though. Sometimes I feel he is watching me. He likes to steal my ideas...

#### ***One artist that inspires me is and why?***

It's Bob Ginn...

Steve Pavlak (past member of SMCC) once said to me... "You have such an opportunity with Bob. He has so much to offer. You can learn so much." He was right. We spend hours with "shop talk." I believe my photography has evolved and improved since knowing him.

#### ***What do you like most about this club?***

I've always felt like our club was part of my extended family. Over the years, the club has changed as members come and go. Feelings, attitudes and life itself change but overall, I feel a closeness



that comes only from the connections we all share with photography. This year will mark my 30<sup>th</sup> year of membership. Someone once said to me, "you love this club..." I guess that says something!

### **Elaine Calvert**

I joined the SMCC several years ago, sometime in the early 90's. Right from the start I was inspired to learn how to take better photos. We joined a local field trip, and everyone was so friendly and helpful. I felt welcomed and had such a great time. I have enjoyed our fieldtrips, both near & far ever since. I soon learned that even though my objective was to learn how to take better photos, I would get a lot more out of this club than that!

I started out with slide film, and I think that really helped me learn the basics very quickly. It forced me to learn how to use "manual mode" instead of trusting the camera. It also caused me to slow down, film was expensive! Now I try to remind myself that I still should really slow down and just get back to those basics. Hard to remember sometimes in this digital world.

I enjoy all different types of subjects for photography as long as it is outdoors with natural light. I probably should learn how to use artificial light better, it's somewhere on my "to do list". It is hard to pick a favorite subject, but I seem to take a lot of flower photos, Color, B&W, Sharp, Blurry, I love it all. Sometimes I focus on shape & form, sometimes it's about the color, and sometimes it's about its soft delicate nature.

Making books has helped me to focus more on a project, trying to make a collection of photos that I feel are somewhat cohesive. I think that exercise teaches us a lot about ourselves and what kind of a photographer we would like to be. It was a very rewarding experience for me, and something I highly recommend. The hardest part is just getting started! I'm still trying to decide what my next project will be, and I probably won't just stick to one thing.

Why do I like photography? For me it has been very therapeutic. I can lose myself when I'm focused on taking a photo. I look at the world differently. I see things that I wouldn't ordinarily notice. It gets me in touch with nature and I feel at peace.

I also get pleasure from looking at photography from other photographers, and also lots of inspiration.

What do I like about this club? This club feels like family to me. A club is only as good as its members, and we have such a great group! This club offers so many opportunities to get together, to support each other, brainstorm, play and get inspired. In this day of social media, we can connect with each other more easily than ever, but something is lost. A club brings people together in so many more ways, and I truly feel fortunate to be a part of this great group.

### **Quote of the month**

Taking pictures is like tiptoeing into the kitchen late at night and stealing Oreo cookies

Diane Arbus

## USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

<b>Meetings</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month at 7:00 pm
<b>Location</b>	Merrill Gardens Retirement Center 1350 N. Suey Rd Santa Maria, Ca Code at the gate # 8888
<b>Membership dues</b>	\$ 30 per person; \$ 45 Family; \$ 20 to participate in the competition meeting. All the due are per year
<b>2020 Club officers</b>	President: Cheryl Decker Vice President: Allan Upshaw Secretary Rosie Brancacio Treasurer: Bill Hood
<b>At-large Board Members</b>	Patty Blyte, Elaine Calvert, Nyla James, Tony Martindale, Flavio Parigi, Penni Powell
<b>2020 Competition Rules</b>	Each member may submit a maximum of 3 entries per competition in any combination of categories
<b>Categories will be:</b>	Small prints (9 x 13 max ) Monochrome Prints (Large Back) Color Prints (Large Back) Slide Digital
<b>2020 Special Subjects</b>	March – Night shots June – Intentional blur September - Reflections
<b>Submit your images for digital competition to:</b>	Greg Doudna gndoudna@gmail.com  Digital images can also be submitted on a flash drive or other media. All the digital images <u>MUST</u> be received no later than Wednesday at 6:45 pm the day of the competition. Images not received in time, will not be entered in the competition
<b>Galleon Director</b>	Flavio Parigi <a href="mailto:fparigi@aol.com">fparigi@aol.com</a>



## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS & CLUB VOLUNTEERS**

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

### **Treasury Report**

We have 44 members in our club

Our bank balance is \$ 2,331.99