



# the Galleon



The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter March 2026

## President's Message

'Tis the season for wildflowers! Seen any lately?

**Perhaps you would like to join our club outing to Carrizo Plain this month!**

We had planned to go from March 9-11, but those dates no longer work for our host. **The new dates are Sunday, March 29 to Tuesday, March 31.** Come for a day or come for a stay. We have been invited to stay at the **Goodwin Ranch House**, which is only available by invitation. There are four bedrooms available plus a parking lot for campers. The house is rustic. Heating is by wood fireplace, and water pressure is low. Those who go bring their own bedding and towels, and we can work out some way for sharing meals if desired. **Let me know if you want a room by March 16.** After that time, if there are still unreserved rooms, we will make them available to non-club members.

May you find the images you seek!

Best,  
Jeanne Sparks

## Last Call...2026 SMCC dues

**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 March 4 meeting, at Merrill Gardens.*

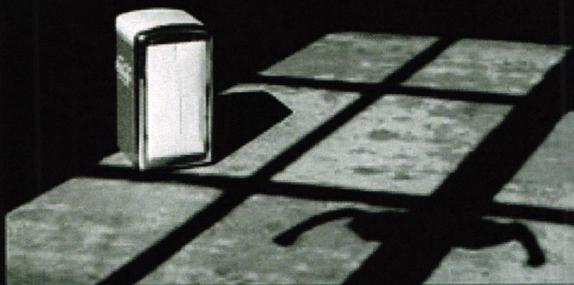
**Only paid members can participate in competitions!**

***Alan***

# Santa Maria Camera Club Workshop

## How To Discuss PHOTOGRAPHS

Jim McKinniss  
Heidi Gruetzemacher



"CAFE TABLE GRAPHIC" BY ED POWELL



"MAN WALKING UP STAIRS" BY PENNI POWELL



"WISHING" BY NYLA JAMES



"RACHELLE #3" BY JIM MCKINNISS

WEDNESDAY 3/4/2026 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
MERRILL GARDENS  
1350 N SUEY RD. SANTA MARIA, CA 93454  
WWW.SANTAMARIACAMERA CLUB.ORG

**Must RSVP [SantaMariaCameraClub@gmail.com](mailto:SantaMariaCameraClub@gmail.com)**

# FEBRUARY COMPETITION RESULT

**Judge: Alla Arutcheva**

## Digital Monochrome

1ST PLACE	Bathing beauty	Penny Powell
2ND PLACE	Like a shipwreck in the sand	Jeanine Bognuda
3RD PLACE	At home, Tammy, 2013	Jim McKinniss

## Digital color

1ST PLACE	Winged warriors	Jeanne Sparks
2ND PLACE	One very focused dalmatian	Jeanine Bognuda
3RD PLACE	pelican	Ron Calvert
HONORABLE MENTION	Merced snow	Elaine Calvert
	Making a splash	

*Congratulation to everyone*



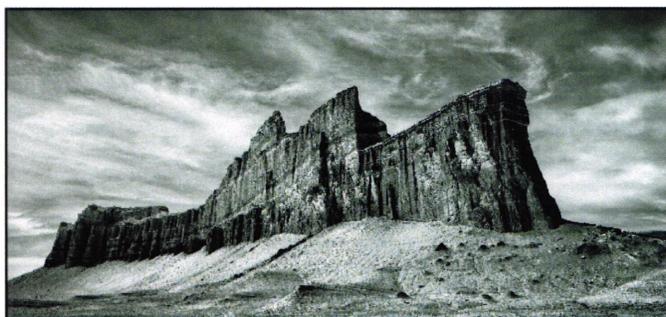
Jeanne Sparks



Penny Powell



By Jeanine Bognuda



By Jeanine Bognuda



By Ron Calvert



By Jim McKinniss



By Elaine Calvert

## SMCC Field Trips for March 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.*

### **March 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>th</sup> (Sun-Tue) Experience the Goodwin Ranch Stay in the Carrizo Plain Monument**

Jeanne Sparks has made a special arrangement with the Carrizo Plain Conservancy to stay at the Goodwin Ranch House, built in 1910, for up to 2 nights. Not a 5-star resort but a unique experience! Please see Jeanne's write up in this Galleon or in email for more info.



February 2026 photo from Carrizo Plain Facebook

**Why go? - The house and outbuildings look great in black and white, while the wildflowers look super in full color!**

## And Beyond...

**April 25<sup>th</sup> (Sat 8:15am – lunch) Tour the Mendenhall's Museum of Gas Pumps and Petroliana in Buellton**

Meet and carpool/caravan from Panera Bread in Santa Maria to Buellton for a unique photo opportunity at the Mendenhall's Museum. We will have a couple of hours to enjoy a family's collection of auto racing and related memorabilia. See the flyer in this Galleon for more information.



The banner features a navigation bar with logos for Richfield, Sunoco, Richlube Motor Oil, McWaltz, Sunset Gasoline, Sunset Ethyl, and El Camino Gasoline. Below the navigation bar is the museum's name in large, bold letters. To the left is a vertical sidebar with an eagle logo, the museum name, and a Facebook icon. The main image shows a collection of vintage gas pumps and signs, including Dixie Gasoline, Shell, and Sunoco. Below the image is a paragraph of text describing the museum's collection and contact information.

**MENDENHALL'S MUSEUM OF GASOLINE PUMPS & PETROLIANA**

The Mendenhall Museum is a private collection located in California's beautiful Santa Ynez Valley. The museum has one of the west coasts [largest petroliana collections including gasoline pumps, globes, and porcelain gas, oil, & road signs](#). There are also race cars, racing memorabilia, license plates, gas & oil items, and other miscellaneous antiques.

This collection was started over fifty years ago by the late [Jack Mendenhall](#) and is carried on today by his son and daughter in law, Mark and Vickie.

We will schedule private tours for individuals and clubs. We host [special events](#), such as weddings, birthday parties, class reunions, family reunions, anniversary's, etc. We also have car and motorcycle club gatherings. Please call [\(805\) 689-2402](#) to schedule your tour. There is a \$15 donation per person for tour. We are located at 24 Zaca St. Buellton CA, 93427.

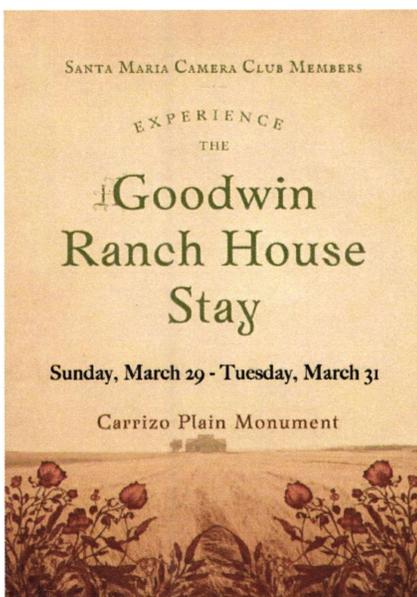
We are home to the [Dry Lakes Racing Hall of Fame](#) and hold an biennial event for the induction of the new honorees.



**April 25<sup>th</sup> (Sat. 8:15 am - Lunch)**

RSVP to [Penpowell2020@gmail.com](mailto:Penpowell2020@gmail.com) by April 24th

\$15 donations per person will be collected at the museum. Lunch after the museum is optional.



Hi Santa Maria Camera Club Members:

We have a unique opportunity to stay two nights at the Goodwin Ranch House in Carrizo Plain from Sunday, March 29 to Tuesday, March 31. The Carrizo Plain Conservancy uses the house as a base for research workers working on projects in Carrizo Plain National Monument nearby, and as a venue for events celebrating the monument.

It is a rustic house heated only by a wood fireplace and you have to bring your own bedding and towels.

Here is what you will find, as described by my friend Steph, who is offering us this opportunity: *the house was built in 1910. The grounds still have a number of old outbuildings and grain silos. My favorite is an old forge building which still has the "engine" which ran the forge. The buildings are a photographer's dream, particularly B/W. The house runs on solar energy. There is no Wi-Fi though lately my phone has more connectivity, likely due to a closer tower installation. Water comes from a well on adjacent BLM property. CPC converted the well to solar a few years ago. Water pressure in the house is extremely low. The house itself is like a maze with 5 bedrooms, lots of closets and small storage rooms, a claw foot tub which currently does not work, and many features that I am still just seeing after visiting many times. The caretaker who is currently ill and not living there used to own the motel and restaurant in California Valley, near the Monument. He is a collector of sorts. Few people have 25 rolling pins or hundreds of dishes/plates/mugs/bowls. Again, interesting fodder for photographers.*

*The house is located just inside the Monument boundary. Traveling from highway 58 to Soda Lake Road, the ranch is the first homestead on the right after you pass the sign indicating entrance to the Monument.*

*The Goodwin Education Center is a few miles past the Goodwin Ranch House, take a right back onto Soda Lake Road to get to it. The attached is a publication by BLM about the Carrizo including the Education Center.*

There is no charge, but Steph would appreciate some photos the conservancy could use.

## Message from Adi Ringer

- **Two Meetup options for Carrizo Plains: Wed. March 4th and Sunday March 15th. Hope to see you there.** <https://www.meetup.com/nature-photography-group-of-the-central-coast-of-ca/>

- **Online interactive Q&A presentation: Preparing for a Tanzania Safari**

If you have been wondering what it is like and how to prepare for a photo safari in Africa, this online meeting is for you! I just got back from a successful trip, where I picked up helpful insights; from flight experience and packing tips to gear suggestions and ways to make each day more comfortable.

**When:** Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**Platform:** Google Meet. You can log in using this link: <https://meet.google.com/uop-tyyv-dqb>

**Topics:** Preparing for a Tanzania Safari, Live Q&A

I look forward to seeing you on the call, I will have a handout available at the end. Please RSVP.

- **Two spots opened up for this coming May Costa Rica trip. Special pricing available, contact me for details.**

Thanks, Adi

**Adi Ringer,**

**Email:** [adi@adiringer.com](mailto:adi@adiringer.com)

**Mobile:** 805-610-5527



# USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

## Meetings

In March there will be a program meeting (March 4<sup>th</sup>) and the competition meeting (March 18)

## 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: Heidi 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](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 Competition Projectionist</b>	Frank Tromp & Jim McKinniss
<b>Program Projectionist</b>	Ron Calvert & Frank Tromp
<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>	Heidi Gruetzmacher
<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>	
<b>Name Tags</b>	Nyla James

"Which of my photos is favorite? The one I am going to take tomorrow."

— Imogen Cunningham