



the Galleon

the Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter May 2017



Affiliated since 1938

Meetings

1st & 3rd Wednesday
of the month
at 7:00pm
(3rd Wednesday only
for July & August)

Location

Merrill Gardens
Retirement Center
1350 N. Suey Rd.
Santa Maria, CA

Membership Dues

\$25 Person; \$35 Family
\$15 year Competitions

2017 Club Officers

President

Dave Clary

Vice President

Alan Upshaw

Secretary

Rosie Brancacio

Treasurer

Bill Hood

At-Large

Board Members

Ramona Cashmore

Flavio Parigi

Ed E. Powell

Penni Powell

Richard Russ

Lynda Snodgrass

Immediate Past Pres.

Nyla James

Galleon Editor

Ramona Cashmore

mamacash85@gmail.com

Upcoming Events...

May 1... Program Meeting TONIGHT (see pg. 2)

May 5... Downtown Fridays in Santa Maria (see pg. 7)

May 6... Saturday Chat @ Francisco's, 8:00 AM (see pg. 10)

May 7... Turn in images for Club photo book (see pg. 8)

May 12... SB County Fair photography entries due (see pg. 10)

May 16 (Tues AM)... AMGEN Bicycle Race in Santa Maria (see pg. 7)

May 17... Competition Meeting, Open Theme

June 3... Annual SMCC BBQ (Details to follow in a later email)

President's Message:

We had a great trip out to the Carrizo Plains for our wildflower field trip. Penni carefully selected our route to maximize our photographic opportunities. I've never seen so many people and cars on the Carrizo Plains before, which was on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. With Carrizo Plains wildflowers being so prominent in the recent news reports (even the New York Times), crowds were to be expected. People climbing up the Temblor mountains from Elkhorn Road to get close to the vari-colored patches of wildflowers formed such a long line that it looked like a secular pilgrimage. Driving back, there were so many vehicles on the Simmler Road crossing back to Soda Lake Road, that at times you couldn't see vehicles in front of you for the dust. And Simmler Road is more like a vehicle and a half in width, not really quite appropriate for two-way traffic. We survived and Rosie Brancacio is now a veteran off-road vehicle driver. She is going to have her car detailed to clean out all the dust.

Jeanne Sparks had her new camera with her. It is a Sony with a built in wide angle to telephoto feature ... going to 600 mm. It is light and compact. More of us are looking for lightweight resolutions to the problem of having the appropriate lens size for most situations you would face. This looks promising. Are we wedded to interchangeable lenses? Possibly not as the cameras get better and better. Chip size may be the key issue. As good as my Canon 600 mm lens is, how often do I lug around a lens that is over two feet long and weighs 11 pounds. Jeanne will always have her 600 with her when out shooting.

Spring has arrived and summer is around the corner. We are going to celebrate the season(s) with our annual spring barbecue at Richard and Dawn Russ' home again on Saturday, June 3, 2017 (thank you Richard and Dawn). Sign up sheets for the potluck part of it will be available at our upcoming club meetings. More information will follow.

Dave Clary

Program Meeting ~ May 3rd (TONIGHT)

Rail Photography Update with David Weisman

Morro Bay resident and Amtrak SLO Station Host David Weisman will inform the club about the newest addition to SLO's Art-After-Dark program. On July 7, in a pilot offering, the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum will be hosting an Art-After-Dark venue for all artistic media representing railroading. Photographers will be invited to display (and sell) their works. Mr. Weisman will explain the program, offer some tips (and prudent legal and safety advice for photographing railroads) and demonstrate some of his own railroad photography (analog photography that has been scanned and will be projected).

The Show & Tell subject is **Motherhood** since Mother's Day is in May. Show & Tell in June will be **Fatherhood**. Feel free to bring any field trip images as well, or anything else you would like to share. **Limit 5 Images**

For June I would like to host any member that would be willing to put on a show for 5 or 10 minutes. It could be anything from a slide show, instructional demonstration, video, lead a discussion, etc. Three or four members would be great. Please contact me abupshaw53@yahoo.com. This will be our last regular Program meeting until September, so lets have some fun!

Just a reminder: As a courtesy to our presenters, judges & members, please turn off (or silence) cell phone ringers during meetings.

Alan

Judge for May's Competition Meeting:

This month's competition is an open category night and our judge is Christine Lester-Deats of Christine Photography in Solvang. She graduated from Brooks Institute of Photography in 1980 and opened her portrait studio a year later, now having 36 years experience in the business. She also holds a Masters degree from the Professional Photographers of America, based in print competition. She is married and lives in the quaint little town of Ballard, has 3 sons, and one of her sons was attending Brooks Institute as well.

To see her work and read more about her, visit her website at www.christinephotography.com. Besides portrait work in both people and animals, you can see some of her other images under the "Places" tab of her website. She doesn't do much with Facebook but if you want to check her out there, look her up under Christine Lester-Deats and you'll see a little more of her. I have been delighted with her critique in the past and look forward to her comments this month.

"Photography is for me, a spontaneous impulse that comes from an ever-attentive eye, which captures the moment and its eternity."

~ Henri Cartier Bresson

Committee Chairs & Club Volunteers

Webmaster

Greg Doudna

Digital Projectionist

Richard Russ

Slide Projectionist

Ed E. Powell

SMCC Directory & Calendar

Rosie Brancacio

Historian

Nyla James

Judge Recruitment

Ramona Cashmore

Saturday Chat

Jim McKinniss

Points Tabulator

Richard Russ

Print Coordinators

Flavio Parigi & Jim Snodgrass

Slide Coordinator

Elaine Calvert

Image Scoring

Elaine Calvert

Lynda Snodgrass

Program Recruitment

Alan Upshaw

Refreshments

Joyce Bolivar

PSA Representative

Nyla James

Library Coordinator

Ramona Cashmore

Meeting Room Setup

Dalton Pittman

Sunshine Lady

Bonnie Adams

Field Trips

Penni Powell, Bob Mihelic
Rosie Brancacio, Bonnie Adams
Alan Upshaw

Name Tags

TBA

A Few Winning Photographs from the April Competition!



"The Skeletal Remains of the Peter Iredale" by Elaine Calvert



"Man in White Hat & Cape #6" by Jim McKinniss



"Ron McCarley" by Ed E. Powell

Competition Special Subjects



March 2017

Wildlife

June 2017

Patterns in Nature

September 2017

Bokeh or Blur



Competition Rules

3 entries per competition night.

One entry per category of your choice or no more than 2 entries in one category and 1 in another.

Categories will be:

Small Prints (9x13 max)

**Monochrome Prints
(Large Back)**

Color Prints (Large Back)

Slides

Digital

Submit your images for
digital competitions to:

Richard Russ

rruss12@gmail.com

Images can also be submitted on a flash drive, or other media. Digital images **MUST** be received no later than Wednesday at **6:45pm** the day of Competition. Images not received in time will not be entered into the competition.

April Competition Results

Judge: Betsy Weiner

Monochrome Prints

1st	<i>Washoe Theatre Anaconda, MT</i>	Jim McKinniss
2nd	<i>Lily Pattern</i>	Nyla James
3rd	<i>Yosemite Morning</i>	Greg Doudna
HM	<i>The Skeletal Remains of the Peter Iredale</i>	Elaine Calvert

Small Prints

1st	<i>Flamingo</i>	Elaine Calvert
2nd	<i>Here's Looking at You</i>	Robert Ginn
3rd	<i>Go With the Flow</i>	Scott Clark

Large Color Prints

1st	<i>Snowy Owl</i>	Richard Russ
2nd	<i>Morning Rainbow</i>	Ted Maddux
3rd	<i>The Proud Vet</i>	Robert Ginn
HM	<i>Man in White Hat & Cape #6</i>	Jim McKinniss

Digital

1st	<i>The Elusive Visitor</i>	Janine Bognuda
2nd	<i>Ron McCarley</i>	Ed E. Powell
3rd	<i>Gandolf's Bride</i>	Greg Doudna
HM	<i>Requiem For a Dead Tree</i>	Ed E. Powell

Slides

1st	<i>A Fancy Bloomer</i>	Penni Powell
2nd	<i>Playing on the Street</i>	Flavio Parigi
3rd	<i>Do You Want a Beer?</i>	Flavio Parigi



Treasury Report



The Club balance is \$2157.41. There are currently 47 paid members.



“Requiem For a Dead Tree” by Ed E. Powell



“Gandolf’s Bride” by Greg Doudna



“Washoe Theater Anaconda, Montana”
by Jim McKinniss



“The Elusive Visitor” by Janine Bognuda

Points North and East For May 2017 ~ by Jim Ogg

The Superbloom at Carrizo National Monument continues 2017 as a spectacular year for substantial rainfall. Actually Shell Creek and Carrizo Plains were the best for the last five years but more rain will be needed next year to encourage the biennials and perennials and the development of a complete Persian carpet. Hearst Ranch Carpet (SR213) shows another superbloom and carpet that is often missed (see photo below).

Mammoth Mountain is still planning to be open for skiing until the Fourth of July! Also the Sierra is expecting a historic spring snow melt and flooding. The last weekend of April is the opening weekend for fishing. Often the high lakes are still frozen. In 2008, several fisherman fell through while ice fishing!! The lower portions of the Mammoth Mountain Ski area usually close near Easter weekend. The upper portions usually are open until at least Memorial Day weekend, and frequently until July 4th weekend. The wildflowers in Owens Valley and Upper Mojave usually peak in April. Virginia Lakes at 10,000 feet, Sabrina Lake, and Rock Creek Lake are usually accessible for the opening of fishing. The rest of the high country roads usually open during May or early June. The Tioga Pass lakes are usually accessible from the east by mid-May.

The high country tarns and lakes usually have "ice breakup" during May; included are Virginia Lakes, Tioga Tarns, Mammoth Lakes Basin, South Lake, North Lake, Lake Sabrina, and Little Lakes Valley.

May begins what I call "magic time" in the Sierra. For May, June and July, the local noontime sun is very high in the sky. So polarizers work on the horizon for all directions not just in two as for sunrise and sunset! So I do much scenic midday shooting during these months, planning to be at the primary locations at local noon. This also provides the opportunity for fully lit landscapes. While those done at sunrise or sunset often have large, very dark areas.

The lower Steppe wildflowers of the Eastern Sierra usually peak during May. Areas to check out are Volcanic Tablelands, Fish Slough, Chalk Bluffs, Reversed Peak Tarns, and Oak Canyon near Independence. Also this is a good time to visit the Petroglyphs north of Bishop.

Desert Peach and Irises are the precursor flowers of the Eastern Sierra. Desert Peach is the first steppe shrub to bloom. The boring gray of the steppe "sagebrush" is overwhelmed by the pink-red masses of Desert Peach blossoms. And the Irises will fill meadows with masses of intense deep blue. The meadows of Bishop and Round Valley usually happen in mid to late May and those of Mono Lake, Bridgeport and Bodie happen in early to mid June.

Upper Mojave wildflowers are usually past their peak in May. But the spectacular Desert (Mariposa) Lily, if any, are usually found in May. However in 2008 they were early and peaked the last weekend of April. The display was prolific in the Haiwee area; comparable to the best ever year of 2005. Even passed its peak, the Desert (Mariposa) Lily is certainly worth the search.

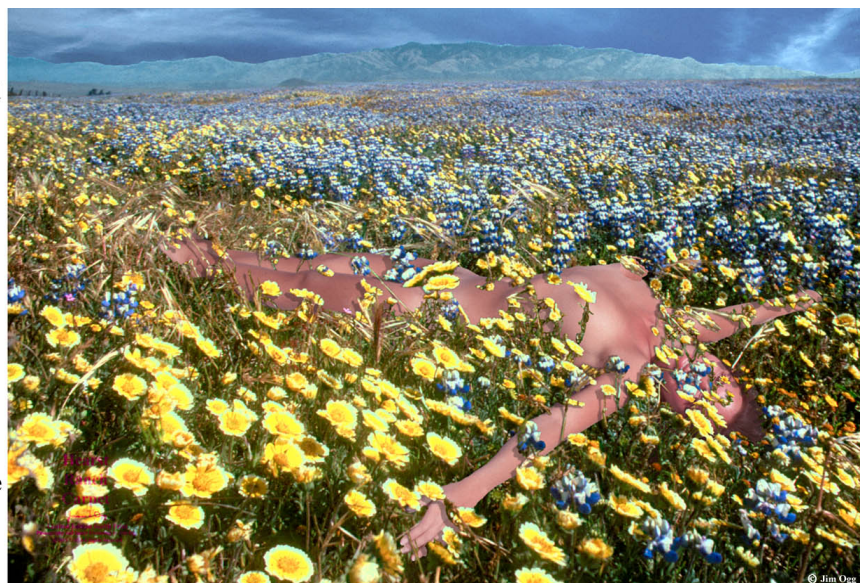
May is usually the best time to check out the many waterfalls and swimming holes at the middle elevations of the western sierra. This includes Angel Falls, Lewis Creek, Foresta Falls and of course Yosemite Valley Falls. With the great Sierra snowpack, the waterfalls could be at their best.

Laguna Lake Open Space hills, near SLO, often has several species of Mariposa Lilies including the very special Obispo Mariposa Lily. Some years none can be found while other years, especially those with rains in April, many may be found in May.

Please provide additions, corrections and comments via e-cid:014A97B7-1CC2-40AE-9E23-1E1DDD42EC46 mail, jimogg@tcsn.net, and visit the website, www.tcsn.net/ogg. Text and Images are copyrighted by Jim Ogg. All rights reserved. Please see website for details.

Hearst Ranch Carpet (SR213)

The tourist comes to the Central California coast for Hearst Castle and Elephant Seals, and then speed on to Big Sur. However if they slowed to look at the meadows north of Pt. Piedras Blancas in spring they might see the blue and gold wildflower carpet on the western edge of the Hearst Ranch. And succumb to the temptation to briefly sprawl in them. The "Hearst Ranch Carpet" image is part of the Sealth body of work which are digital images of landscapes, scenics, and the human form and are based on locations in the Hearst Ranch, North San Luis Obispo County, Central Coast of California and High Sierra.



SMCC Field Trips May 2017 and Beyond

Please note: Rain or bad weather can cancel outdoor activities. Contact the leader if you are in doubt. Check your email for any updates as the date of the event draws near.

May 5th @ 5:00 pm (Fri) - Downtown Fridays in Santa Maria - Meet at the foot of the Broadway pedestrian bridge in Town Center West. This is an opportunity to practice **Street Photography** with a Cinco de Mayo theme.

Get downtown

Downtown Fridays happens March 31 through Sept. 29 at Santa Maria Town Center West, southwest corner of Broadway and Main Street. Hours are 5 p.m. to sunset and 5 to 9 p.m. from May 1 through Aug. 31. Parking is free and overflow parking is available at Town Center East by Macy's, with the event accessible via the Broadway pedestrian bridge.

The weekly event features a certified farmer's market, live music, food booths, food trucks, kids' activities, and a beer and wine tent. *More info:* <http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/residents/downtown-fridays>

We'll regroup at the beer and wine tent at 7pm and consider eating at the event or adjourning elsewhere for dinner.

For more info, contact Penni (929-2420 home, 363-1931 cell on field trip day).

Why go? - Take a few photos, dance to live music, buy fruits and vegetables, take a few more photos, have dinner with friends...¡Olé!

May 16th (Tues am) - AMGEN Tour of California Bicycle Race (Stage 3) - The race is circling Santa Maria this year and gives us many options to view and photograph the race. Detailed plans will be sent out in an email. Perhaps set up on Tepusquet Road?

Why go? - The thrill of victory if you get a great image.

Other May ideas: Check out Rosie B's May Calendar.

And Field Trips Beyond...

June - Big Sur coastline if open past Ragged Point

July 22 (Save the Date!) Astrophotography on Figueroa Mountain with Greg Doudna

If you have an idea for a field trip, please let anyone in the field trip committee know about it:

Penni Powell, Bob Mihelic, Bonnie Adams, Alan Upshaw,
and Rosie Brancacio at your service!

Guest Commentary:

by Mary Goodspeed

April 17, 2017

Dear Friends and newer members,

Since I am so pleased to be an honorary member of this great club, I thought I would be one of the first "guest writers" that Ramona asked for.

I do so enjoy receiving the Galleon each month with the shots of many of the winning photos and reading about the past field trips and those coming up. Oh! How I enjoyed those trips. You guys have so much talent that I am almost glad I'm not competing with you again.

I will be 92 at the end of this month. I'm still taking pictures. Ha! Only with a phone or tablet, and only of whatever Orchids I have in bloom at that moment. This is my hobby now.

Keep up the good work. May God bless each of you, give you good health and many more years of shooting.

Love ya all.

Mary Goodspeed

(EDITOR'S NOTE: It was such a nice surprise to receive this letter from Mary, one of the longest standing members of the Club. And if you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Mary, well then, you have really missed out!)

Just a Reminder! Your photos are now due for our Club book.

Last year we talked about creating a photo book of our favorite photographs from each member of our club. Well, now is the time to create that book so we need your photos. **Two of your favorite photos from 2016 and any date prior, none from 2017.** The format is as follows: JPEG, minimum 300 pixels per inch and a total size of 1 to 3 MB. It should also have a title and a brief description, if you want, although that is not necessary. The format of the book is horizontal with one photo per page, so a horizontal photo will fit better on the page than a vertical, but either format is ok. If anyone needs help with these specifications, please contact Elaine Calvert or myself. Send the photos to Richard Russ (an email is fine) by **Sunday, May 7.** We hope to keep the cost to around \$25, so it will not be too expensive to purchase a copy. This book will give us a chance to have a permanent record of some of the great photos we have seen over the years. *The success of this book depends on all members participating, so we hope all will.*

Richard Russ ~ russ12@gmail.com

From Ed Powell:

So. I got this email from info@shootingthewest.org, inviting me to enter their contest:

“You don't want to miss this. Calendar Photo Contest Opens Wednesday, April 12th at 9:00 am!” -- shootingthewest

The subject line of the email is “Are You In?” With the impression that Shooting the West operates in the interest of photographers, I decided to check it out. Am I in? No.

NO: I am definitely NOT IN.

“You retain your rights to your photograph; however, by entering the contest, you grant Shooting the West (and those authorized by Shooting the West) a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to publicly display and distribute, reproduce, and create derivative works of the entries, in whole or in part, in any media now existing or later developed, for any Shooting the West purpose, including, but not limited to, advertising and promotion and its website, exhibition, and commercial products, including but not limited to Shooting the West publications. Any photograph reproduced will include a photographer credit. Shooting the West will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses. Shooting the West will not use any images for monetary gain.” — shootingthewest

Really? Just by entering (and paying five bucks per image), Shooting the West claims the right to use my photographs to serve its own interests without any compensation whatsoever. This is a consequence of entering, independent of whether I win or not. Oh, and it's not just Shooting the West that gets this right. It's also those “*authorized by Shooting the West.*”

By their rules, Shooting the West can sell that authorization. But they “*will not use any images for monetary gain.*”

“Shooting the West reserves the right to cancel the contest or modify these rules at its discretion. In the event of a dispute regarding the winners, Shooting the West reserves the right to award or not award the prizes at its sole discretion.” — shootingthewest

This gives Shooting the West the right to collect your money and then cancel the contest. Worse, Shooting the West can modify the rules, so maybe they WON'T include photographer credit. And maybe they WON'T refrain from using any images for “*monetary gain.*”

“All winners will receive one (1) complimentary commemorative calendar and bragging rights to say that they are one of the select few that is the first calendar of its kind!” — shootingthewest

The winners--not all the entrants, just the winners--get one free calendar. Big deal. Oh, plus, if you win, you can say that you are “*the first calendar of its kind.*” Wait...what? Why would you want to be a calendar? Well, if you do, this is your chance.

And on top of all this, they want people to pay for the privilege of giving to Shooting the West images that Shooting the West deems to have marketing value. Whoever thought of and signed off on this scam ought to be embarrassed and shamed. This is NOT the way to support photography.

Shooting the West may not intend to pursue any of the concerns that I've expressed here. Their terms of entry, however, do not support that contention. Why are these matters so explicitly described in the rules? They raise questions about the intent and integrity of the contest sponsor, and give the appearance that there may be unpublicized opportunities that the organization may choose to pursue. If images are truly to be

used only for the calendar and contest promotion, then that exclusive use should be explicitly stated in the agreement with the same clarity and conviction accorded the terms of their current description of rights. In that manner, both Shooting the West and participating photographers have fair protection for their respective parts in the project.

Well, anyway, you've still got until June 11, 2017 to pay five bucks to get screwed for your work. I'll pass. I have more respect for my photography--and my subjects--than that which is accorded with this contest!

~ Ed E. Powell

1st Saturday Chat

Mark your calendar for this Saturday, May 6, 2017 as our next breakfast chat. Join us at:

Francisco's Country Kitchen
1701 N. Broadway, Santa Maria

Meeting time is 8:00 AM

The usual length is approximately 2 hours.

For a friendly critique of your work, bring no more than 4-5 small prints (8"x11") and a Sharpie for marking up your work.



“OMG. I can’t believe I totally paid to like give my pictures away!”

THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FAIR

is coming up July 12 - 16, 2017

Over the years, a number of club members have participated in the Photography exhibit, taking home ribbons, small cash awards, and the honors of one or more winning photographs. The theme for this year is “Once Upon a Fair.” There are Amateur, Youth, and Professional categories with the possibility of 15 different classes or subjects. **Entry information (including titles) must be registered ONLINE by May 12, and fees must be paid at the Fair Administration Office no later than 5 PM May 13. Absolutely no late entries accepted.**

Exhibits are due to the Fair on July 5th and pick up of entries is July 17th. For more information, pick up a Fair Handbook at one of our club meetings or at the Fairgrounds Office. In the meantime, start getting your images ready for some hometown competition!

Ramona Cashmore