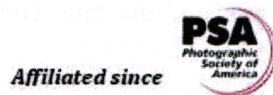




the Galleon



The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter May 2020

President's Message

Hi from "Covidistan"...that is the new term for the emergency department used by those of us working on the frontline. I bring you good news...Case numbers in the ICUs are declining in Kern and Santa Barbara counties, we are finally getting more testing capabilities and an antiviral has just shown good results in actually killing the virus! We are making progress and it has only been 45 days since shut down.

That said...it will be a very long time before Merrill Gardens is likely to let us meet there, maybe not until there is a vaccine. Some of our members have been working hard to figure how to do a competition online in June. More on that soon, watch for an email.

I have been watching YouTube videos on photopills and also polearm. The latter has many free photoshop tutorials. Photo pills is an app well worth the price if you want to plan sunrise, sunset, blue hour, stars, milky way photography. The photo pills app is a bit geeky, but the instructional videos are excellent. I am planning a supermoon May 7 photo op if the weather is good. My last opportunity on April 7 bombed as it was overcast with no moonrise visible.

Some of you have told me in the past "I wish I had more time for photography and editing" ...well now you have been given a gift. Even if you are still working during the pandemic, you are limited in social engagements. You have more time. Take pictures daily. Edit them daily. Practice your craft. (OK, I am saying this to myself also)

Wishing your health and vigor and passion,

Cheryl

SMCC president

Editor's Message

What strange weekends I have spent in the last couple of months. During this difficult time the best way to help each other is to "stay at home", so after I review my photos, read old favorite books, do household chores, I admit that most of my time is spent on YouTube. It is fascinating to learn new techniques, review different equipment and comparison tests. It's quite shocking to realize how many diverse opinions there are about various concepts: "the best idea is to use the tripod" versus "the tripod is dead and there is no reason to use or buy one", or "there is no question that for the best photo quality you still must use the lowest ISO possible" versus "with the modern camera the ISO you use is irrelevant". Apparently, there is a big difference according to the camera used or, there is not! As people say "everyone is entitled to their opinion" but there is not necessarily only one truth for everyone. I have tried to use this time on YouTube to find inspiration and ideas and have discovered so many incredibly talented photographers with so much to teach. What we are missing during this period is the next step.... to go out and "just do it". We are like many sport athletes right now, we are training with our eye on the prize, but we do not have the possibility to race. We are like a fine wine in the cellar, absorbing stimuli through so many great resources, waiting until we are given the clearance to uncork our pent-up creativity. Will we be a better photographer? Maybe... maybe not, but we will try something different and maybe we will be satisfied with what we find. The best part of this journey will be to reconnect again, share what we have learned, and encourage each other to be better photographers. I have discovered how much I value this club and all its member so I hope and believe it will be soon.

Flavio

No Program Meeting Planned for May

Due to Covid-19, and social distancing, we are not planning a program or competition meeting for May. Meanwhile our President Cheryl Decker is an ER doctor working in Kern County and our Refreshments Co-Ordinator Joyce Bolivar works in the lab for the San Luis County Health Department. We must take our hats off to these, and any other members that are fighting to keep us safe in these crazy times.

A group of SMCC members have been looking into, and testing software to have meetings online. Meanwhile we have the Galleon and our website www.santamariacameraclub.org as a way to stay together. If things get better enough to meet in person, I'm thinking that maybe we could have some kind of get-together in July or August, maybe a field trip to a beach, or nearby natural area, where we can socially distance, with cameras in hand. In the meantime, stay safe and stay tuned.

Alan

Message from Jeanne

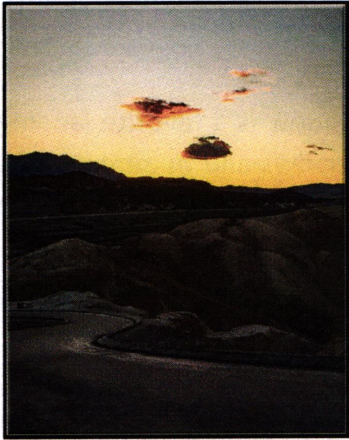
I have the best view from my office. A jacaranda just outside my window is a favorite landing spot for all types of birds: scrub jays, orioles, finches, grosbeaks, sparrows and hummingbirds. Wild bunnies come by quite often, as do quail, and hawks and vultures fly overhead. I am quite entertained and have taken way too many bird and bunny photos.

I have added a hummingbird feeder, a songbird feeder, two bird baths and I often give carrot or dandelion greens to the bunnies.

These two hummingbirds were fighting over the feeder when I first put it out. They seem to have found separate times to feed now. Loved to see them interact.

Jeanne





By Greg Doudna



By Dian Thomsen



By Flavio Parigi



By Jim McKinniss

SMCC Field Trips for May 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.

Hello from the Powells, just aging in place...



June 26th – Port San Luis Sunset Lighthouse Tour?

We are waiting to see if this field trip that is organized by Bob Mihelic will proceed. Bob or I will let you know by email when there is an update.

The Future of Field Trips during the Pandemic

I will again lead field trips once the state and local guidelines permit us to gather in a small group and travel safely. We will definitely have to follow social distancing and use of masks, etc., but I believe that will be possible at some point with cooperation from all involved.

Meanwhile, please enjoy some photos from the February 2020 Death Valley Trip.

Death Valley Before Quarantine











Photos by Penni Powell
In order of appearance:
Greg Doudna, Larry Decker, Ed Powell, and Cheryl Decker'

FOCUS ON CLUB MEMBERS

Patty Blyte

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

I started as a teenager and really enjoyed photography. When my kids came along, I really enjoyed capturing them growing up. I continue to take pictures because there is always something new to discover and it is just fun!

Do you shoot color or BW?

Mostly color but I really like BW the best and want to start shooting more in BW.

The perfect subject for me is

Nature, anything outdoors or when something speaks to you.

The best photo I took was

In Morro Bay of the rock with a boat in front of it with a beautiful sunset.

My next project (or idea or photo) is

My next project is to take a photo-book.

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

I like to go with someone else who enjoys photography, it is fun discovering new ideas and collaborating to create something.

One artist that inspires me is and why?

I do not have just one artist that inspires me if there is something special that I want to shoot I will look for an artist that I can get some ideas from. I follow a lot of artist on Instagram.

What do you like most about this club?

Everyone is so friendly and approachable. When I have had questions, I can always ask a member that will help me or guide me. This is a great group of extraordinarily talented photographers that I am learning from.

Quote of the month

There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs.

Ansel Adams

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

Meetings	1 st and 3 rd Wednesday each month at 7:00 pm
Location	Merrill Gardens Retirement Center 1350 N. Suey Rd Santa Maria, Ca Code at the gate # 8888
Membership dues	\$ 30 per person; \$ 45 Family; \$ 20 to participate in the competition meeting. All the due are per year
2020 Club officers	President: Cheryl Decker Vice President: Allan Upshaw Secretary Rosie Brancacio Treasurer: Bill Hood
At-large Board Members	Patty Blyte, Elaine Calvert, Nyla James, Tony Martindale, Flavio Parigi, Penni Powell
2020 Competition Rules	Each member may submit a maximum of 3 entries per competition in any combination of categories
Categories will be:	Small prints (9 x 13 max) Monochrome Prints (Large Back) Color Prints (Large Back) Slide Digital
2020 Special Subjects	March – Night shots June – Intentional blur September - Reflections
Submit your images for digital competition to:	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
Galleon Director	Flavio Parigi fparigi@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & CLUB VOLUNTEERS

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

Treasury Report

We have 44 members in our club

Our bank balance is \$ 2,209.18