



the Galleon



The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter November 2025

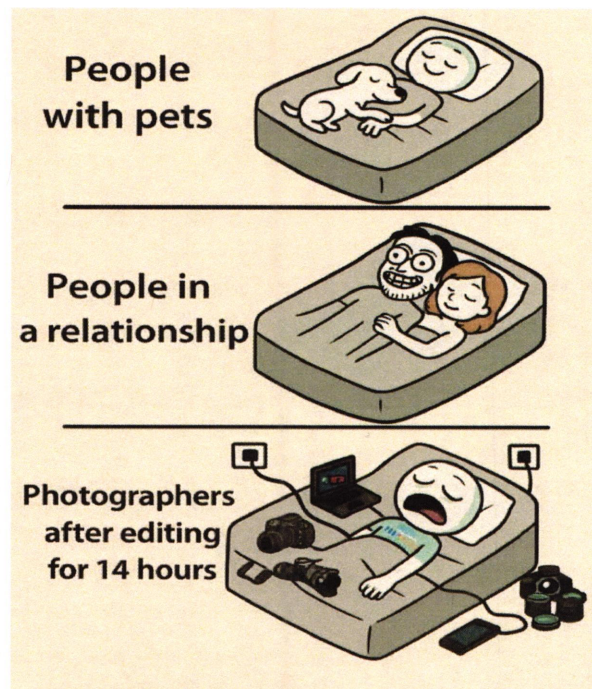
President's Message

I am looking forward to seeing you all for our in-person program meeting on Wednesday, November 5, when we will have elections for our board of directors.

And speaking of elections, do not forget to vote on Tuesday, November 4 in California's special election.

Best,

Jeanne Sparks



It is time to elect board members for 2026!

The election will take place during our **November 5th in-person meeting at Merrill Gardens**. The new board will be installed at our January 2026 Awards Get-Together.

All terms are for one year.

The nominees for Executive officers:

- ❖ **President**, Jeanne Sparks
- ❖ **Vice-President**, Heidi Gruetzmacher
- ❖ **Secretary**, Frank Tromp
- ❖ **Treasurer**, Alan Upshaw

We have 6 positions for "At Large" board members. Our Slate for 2026 is Dian Thomsen, Penni Powell, Nyla James, Harold Litwiler, Jim McKinniss, Flavio Parigi.

If there are no challenges to the nominations for the 2026 SMCC Board, we can elect the slate of candidates by acclamation, such as a simple raising of hands. Otherwise, we are required to have a paper ballot. *Thanks to all nominees for stepping forward!*

Alan Upshaw

SMCC Nominating Committee

SMCC Program Meeting November 5, 2025

Print Sharing

Ansel Adams once said "The negative is comparable to the composer's score and the print to its performance. Each performance differs in subtle ways." We have not shared our prints at a club meeting in some time, so this month's meeting is being set aside for just that. If you have any images that you have printed, old or new, this would be an enjoyable time to share them. We will dust off the light box so we can show them properly and discuss them if the maker wishes. A quote by John Paul Caponigro says. "When you make prints, you deepen your relationship with your images" Ed & Penni Powell, Jim McKinniss, and Timothy Towne will share their prints from the fair competition, but this is open to all members who have prints to share. Let us get inspired and deepen our relationship with photography and one another.

Elaine, Program Coordinator

Merrill Gardens Gate Code: 1350

OCTOBER COMPETITION RESULT

Judge: Zandar Fieschko

Digital Monochrome

1ST PLACE	Walking through slices of time	Penny Powell
2ND PLACE	Sundial bridge # 2	Elaine Calvert
3RD PLACE	Calla Lily # 2 2013	Jim McKinniss
HONORABLE MENTION	Alcatraz suicide door	Grogory Doudna

Digital color

1ST PLACE	Let us dance Harvest supermoon over	Harlod Litwiler
2ND PLACE	Picacho	Cheryl Decker
3RD PLACE	Taking terms	Frank Tromp
HONORABLE MENTION	Racing to the fishing spot	Chuck Uebele
HONORABLE MENTION	Hahaha	Janine Sparks

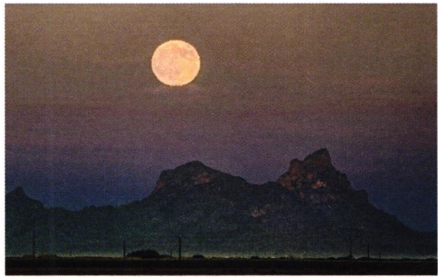
Congratulation to everyone



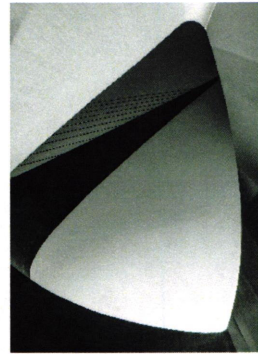
Harold Litwiler



Penny Powell



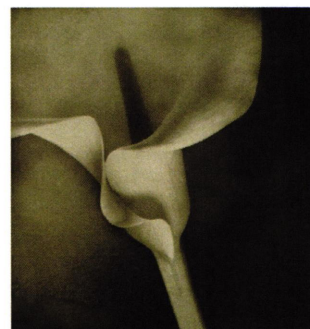
By Cheryl Decker



By Elaine Calvert



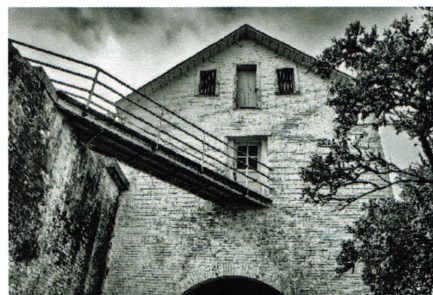
By Frank Tromp



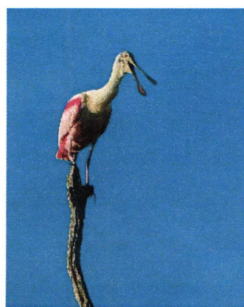
By Jim McKinniss



By Chuck Uebele



By Gregory Doudna



By Jeanine Sparks

SMCC Field Trips for November 2025 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.

Nov 15th (Sat 7:30am – afternoon?) – Carrizo Plains and Painted Rock Hike Have you wondered what the Carrizo Plains are like after the Madre Fire (July 2025) burned in the monument? Are you interested in prehistoric rock art? LET'S GO! Meet at Starbucks on Main St., East of the 101 (1301 E Main St, SM by Home Motors) at 7:30am to carpool/caravan out Hwy 166 to Soda Lake Road and into the monument.



If you would like to do the 1.5-mile RT hike to the Painted Rock Native American pictographs, the self-guided tour requires reservations 24 hours in advance from Recreation.gov (\$1 reservation fee). Also, on the website they say, "You must not make, for commercial use, any digital photography, print, or video images of any pictographs or petroglyphs." I did not see any prohibition of drones in the monument (is BLM) if you are into that. I read online that the area around Painted Rock was burned but "likely" did not get into the rock formation itself. The Carrizo Plains has no services available (gas, food, water, charge) and a restroom at the visitor center is supposed to be open but we cannot be sure of the government shutdown. COME PREPARED! Bring water and lunch/snacks with you, along with t.p. 😊

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

Why go? – A wildland fire creates opportunities for new life and photographs!

And Beyond...

Dec 6th (Sat) Hwy 1 to Limekiln State Park and Return Spend the day watching elephant seals and exploring Limekiln State Park. Catch a sunset at 5pm on the coast at low tide. Thanks, Flavio, for suggesting this trip.

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

Message from Adi Ringer

Meetups:

The Central Coast Nature Photography announces two meetups:

1. Supermoon Moonrise & Sunset Combo: Avila Pier, November 5th at 4:00 PM: https://www.meetup.com/nature-photography-group-of-the-central-coast-of-ca/events/311769158/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=rsvp-confirmation-social
2. Shoot & Social combo: Biddle Regional Park, December 6th at 2:00 PM https://www.meetup.com/nature-photography-group-of-the-central-coast-of-ca/events/311782065/?utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=announce_event&utm_source=link&utm_version=v2

Photo tours:

Adi Ringer is announcing new photo tours:

Costa Rica, May 7-15, 2026 <https://adiringer.com/costa-rica-safari-2026/>

Africa 2027, details coming soon. If interested, please use this form <https://adiringer.com/africa-safari-interest-form/>

Ad-Hoc Tours: If timing is an issue, or you're looking for a specific trip, check this out <https://adiringer.com/ad-hoc-photographytours/>



USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

Meetings

In November there will be a program meeting (November 5) and the competition meeting (November 12)

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: Elaine Calvert
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 – Altered reality.
June – Celebrate what is right in the world.
September – Intentional camera movement

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
	Penni Powell, Bob Mihelic, Rosie Brancacio, Bonnie Adams, Alan Upshaw, Greg Doudna
Field trips	
Name Tags	Nyla James

"Photography is not made to impress others; it is made to discover yourself."

— Selaru Ovidiu