



# the Galleon



## The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter October 2026

### President's Message

Greetings!

Hope to see you at the Artists' Reception for the **"Inspired by Nature" art show** at 1:30 p.m. in the Santa Maria Public Library Shepard Hall Gallery, 421 S. McClelland Street, Santa Maria. Adi Ringer and I have photographic art included in the show!

Be sure to have our **in-person meeting** on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. at Merrill Gardens. **Diane Reeves** will share images and speak about her lengthy career as a photographer. Thanks to Heidi Gruetzemacher for organizing these programs.

**Witches and Warlocks** will paddle in Morro Bay on Oct 24. Join us for the **field trip** organized by Penni Powell.

For a small group to get together, join the club's **Saturday Breakfast** at Pappy's at 8 a.m. on Oct. 10. Thanks to Jim McKinnis for organizing these.

Our **competition** this month is on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Entries are due by Sunday, Oct. 18. Look for information Frank Tromp will email. Thanks to Frank, Harold Litwiler, Penni Powell, Elaine Calvert, and Flavio Parigi for their work on the competitions.

Our **Year-end Competition** this year is **Products**. Take your photograph and have it printed on something like a coffee mug or T-shirt or whatever. It can even be a framed print. Members will vote on the entries during our Dec. 2 Holiday Party at Merrill Gardens. Thanks to Penni for chairing the Holiday Party. Please volunteer to help her.

**Photographic Society of America's Photo Fest** in September in Las Vegas was a lot of fun. Nyla James and I attended. It was full of information and inspiration from photographers across the country and around the world. PSA offers help with getting judges and speakers, recruiting new members, Interclub Competitions, international competitions, and more. Thanks to Nyla for volunteering to run the **Interclub Competitions**.

We are starting a **Membership Recruitment Committee**, which I hope will join. We are looking at exciting ways to attract new members.

We are also looking for **Greeters** who will make sure guests feel welcome. Greeters will introduce guests to other members and make sure they are not alone the first few times they come to our meetings. Our first official Greeter is Dian Thomsen! Thank you, Dian, for volunteering – and for making sure we can get into the building!

Finally, we encourage new members to get involved on our **board of directors**. Nominations are being taken now and see more information in this newsletter.

Yours in the light,

**Jeanne Sparks**

## **Board election 2026**

The Santa Maria Camera Club is looking for At Large Board Members for 2027

We have board meetings three or four times a year, usually online. We have an elected President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Additionally, we elect six members to serve as At-Large Board Members. We do this to have a variety of opinions for making decisions about club policies and directions.

Terms are only for one calendar year with full voting rights. At-Large Board Members are asked to assist in some of our functions, such as the awards get-together, Holiday Party, and other things, but the commitment is minimal.

The board is a great way to be involved in the club, and a perfect way to get to know our members. We have two vacancies to fill, and we would like to invite our new members. The slate of candidates will be announced mid-October, and we will hold the vote at the November meeting at Merrill Gardens. The 2027 officers are installed in January at our annual awards get-together.

Please let us know if you are interested.

Alan Upshaw  
Jeanne Sparks  
Santa Maria Camera Club Nominating Committee

# SEPTEMBER COMPETITION RESULT

**Judge: Theresa Gingras**

## Digital Monochrome

|           |                          |                |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1ST PLACE | Sunflowers, act II       | Elaine Calvert |
| 2ND PLACE | Morning by a cafe window | Ed Powell      |
| 3RD PLACE | Meemaw's kitchen         | Penni Powell   |

## Digital color

|                   |                          |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1ST PLACE         | Citrus still life        | Elaine Calvert      |
| 2ND PLACE         | Harvest glow             | Jeanine Bognuda     |
| 3RD PLACE         | Metallic green sweat bee | Harold Litwiler     |
| HONORABLE MENTION | Holding court            | Jeanine Bognuda     |
| HONORABLE MENTION | Abalone shell with pearl | Heidi Gruetzemacher |

*Congratulation to everyone*



Elaine Calvert



Elaine Calvert



Jeanine Bognuda



Ed Powell



Harold Liwiler



Penni Powell



Jeanine Bognuda



Heidi Gruetzemacher

## **SMCC Field Trips for October 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.*

### **Oct 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat 1–5pm) Lunch followed by Witches and Warlocks Paddle in Morro Bay**

Meet at 1pm in Morro Bay at the T Pier's sea otter nursery (1185 Embarcadero) and have lunch nearby. The Witches, Warlocks, Wizards and Sorcerers begin their paddle from Coleman Park at 3pm so we have plenty of time to eat and get ready for the parade of over 500 costumed paddlers to float by the Embarcadero! Bring a chair to sit in and dress up as you like to join in the fun. Cackling and spell casting are encouraged. Keep your familiar on a leash, please.



Questions? Contact me [penpowell2020@gmail.com](mailto:penpowell2020@gmail.com) or cell phone Why go? When the witching hour strikes, the air is thick with possibility. Let the magic begin!

## **And beyond...**

### **Nov 9<sup>th</sup> (Mon afternoon) Pismo Beach Sand Art**

**Nov 14<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> California Route 66, Santa Monica to Seligman AZ** Santa Monica, San Bernadino, Barstow, Needles, and Kingman AZ, Seligman. Return home via Hwy 40. A multi-day field trip with motel lodging. Contact Penni if you're interested. See flyer in this Galleon

**Dec – Oso Flaco Lake** Migrating birds will be back.

### **Jan 2027 – LA museum trip, down and back on a Sunday**

Got an idea for a field trip? Email Penni at [penpowell2020@gmail.com](mailto:penpowell2020@gmail.com)



# California Route 66 Road Trip - West to East

Nov. 14-20, 2026

Route 66 in California runs 314 miles from Santa Monica to Needles. This week-long trip explores the many interesting and fun roadside stops that Route 66 is famous for, starting at the Santa Monica Pier and looping into Arizona before heading home.

We'll stay at motels in towns that have neon lights and other unique photo ops to offer. We will eat at Route 66 for dinner and hamburger joints. How can you not want to come along?

**I will organize the trip with the input of the people interested to join me.**

**RSVP ASAP with Penni [penpowell2020@gmail.com](mailto:penpowell2020@gmail.com)**



Top: Santa Monica Pier   Left: Amboy   Right: Oatman AZ

## Diane Reeves

Born in Los Angeles, California, Diane moved with her parents to the suburbs when she was seven years old. She never strayed far from the state of California. Instead, she travels in her mind. All of her work reflects this viewpoint—so many places while staying put. Beginning with black-and-white photography, Diane discovered that the smell of the chemistry and watching prints “come up” in the developer were magical. She still wanted color—not ordinary color, but the colors the world should be. By using oil paints and pencils to hand-color her prints, her world became much larger. Diane has a relentless mind, always looking for what comes next. Each series her website hold builds upon the one before it, allowing the work to continually evolve. When she had to switch to digital photography, she discovered the freedom to print on different materials. Although it took three years to learn how to paint in acrylic instead of oil, the transition is now complete. The website is sequenced with the current work first and the oldest artwork last, with one exception: the Self Portraits. Diane has been making self-portraits from the beginning, and they span every series, covering her entire life. They not only show what her artwork looks like; they also reveal how she has changed physically over time.



**DianeReevesArt.com**

**October 7, 2026 7:00 - 8:30**



**Santa Maria  
Camera  
Club**

**Merrill Gardens 1350 N Suey Rd, Santa Maria, CA**

**For gate entry instructions**

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

**[SantaMariaCameraClub.org](http://SantaMariaCameraClub.org)**

# INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Meetings</b>                                       | In October there will be a program meeting (October 7) and the competition meeting (October 21)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Location</b>                                       | 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.<br>If you want to participate, <i>please send an email to</i> <a href="mailto:santamariacameraclub@gmail.com">santamariacameraclub@gmail.com</a>                                        |
| <b>Saturday Breakfast</b>                             | The meeting will be on October 10 at 1275 Betteravia Rd, Santa Maria. It starts at 8:00 and ends at 10:00.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Membership dues</b>                                | \$ 35 per person; \$ 50 Family; \$ 30 to participate in the competition meeting. All the due are per year                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>2025 Club officers</b>                             | President: Jeanne Sparks<br>Vice President: Heidi Gruetzemacher<br>Secretary: Frank Tromp<br>Treasurer: Alan Upshaw                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>At-large Board Members</b>                         | Nyla James, Harold Litwiler, Jim McKinniss, Flavio Parigi, Penni Powell, Diane Thomsen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>2025 Competition Rules</b>                         | Each member may submit a maximum of 3 total image submissions in any category per competition.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Categories will be:</b>                            | Digital Color, Digital Monochrome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Immediate Past president</b>                       | Cheryl Decker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>2025 Special Subjects</b>                          | March – Landscape.<br>June – Macro Photography.<br>September – Still Life                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Submit your images for digital competition to:</b> | All the digital images can only be submitted by email at this email address <a href="mailto:santamariacameraclub@gmail.com">santamariacameraclub@gmail.com</a><br>All the digital images <b><u>MUST</u></b> be received no later than Sunday prior to the Wednesday competition. Images not received on 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 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 Gruetzemacher                                                  |
| <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, Alan Upshaw, Greg Doudna |
| <b>Field trips</b>                       |                                                                      |
| <b>Name Tags</b>                         | Nyla James                                                           |

"To photograph: it is to put on the same line of sight the head, the eye and the heart."

Henri Cartier-Bresson