



# the Galleon



The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter April 2026

## President's Message

'Hey all,

Sorry the field trip to Carrizo Plain did not work out. Maybe next year.

What are your plans for April?

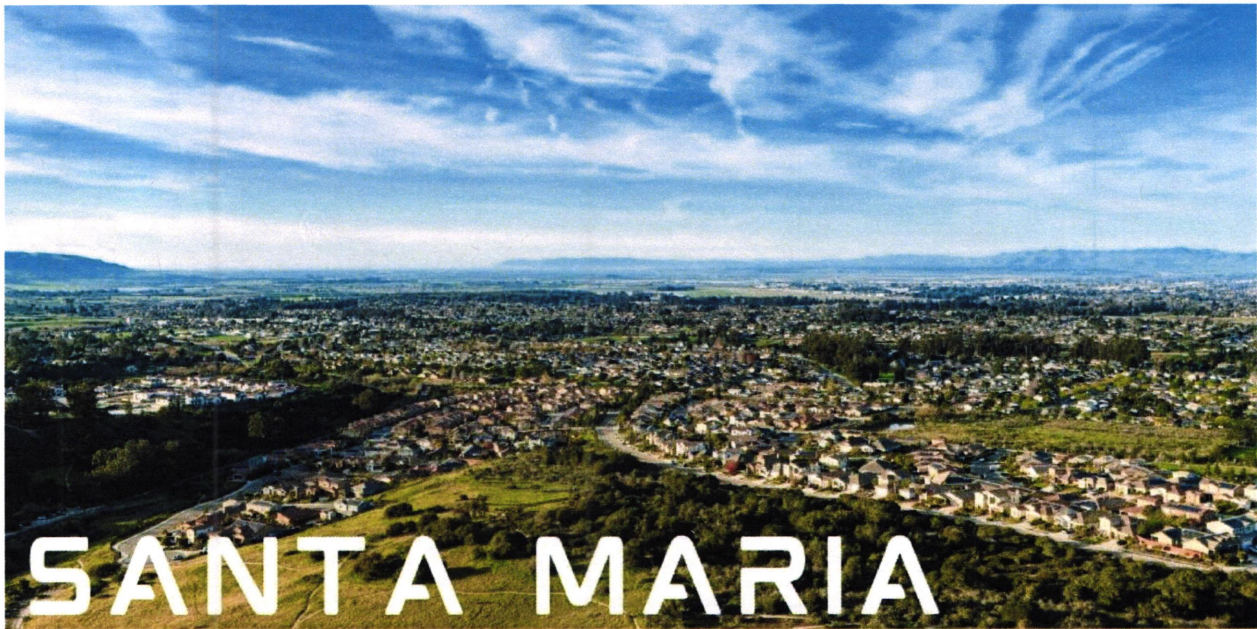
Anyone into April Fool's Day? We will have our program meeting that day, but no fooling around with drone photography. SMCC Member Tim Towne will give us the lowdown on his experience as a certified drone pilot.

How about Tax Day on April 15? We will have our competition that day, open category. But do not give the taxman any openings to come after you for your tax!

April 23 is the day my husband Ken and I leave for a trip to Ireland and the Netherlands. We would love to hear any tips you have for photography in those areas. We will only have time to visit Dublin while in Ireland, but we will have time to explore more of the Netherlands while we are there. Probably will visit Belgium, too. We are going for our "chosen daughter's" wedding at City Hall in Rotterdam. It looks like a special place.

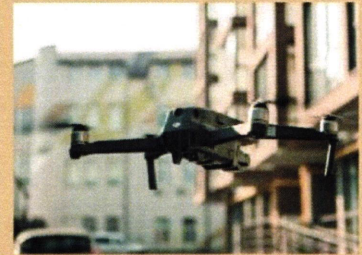
All right, see you soon!

Best,  
Jeanne Sparks



# SANTA MARIA CAMERA CLUB

**TIM TOWNE ON DRONE TECHNOLOGY  
AND THE LANDSCAPE OF PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Wednesday, April 1, 2026 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



Drone technology gives photographers access to perspectives once possible only from aircraft or tall structures. From above, familiar scenes reveal patterns, geometry, and relationships that are often hidden from ground level. Drone photography is expanding creative possibilities for landscape, architectural, and environmental photography while encouraging photographers to explore new approaches to composition and visual storytelling.

## Must RSVP

[SantaMariaCameraClub@gmail.com](mailto:SantaMariaCameraClub@gmail.com)  
Merrill Gardens  
1350 N Suey Rd,  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
[www.SantaMariaCameraClub.org](http://www.SantaMariaCameraClub.org)

- To Attend Meeting
- Enter Gate Code
- Use LeftGate

# MARCH COMPETITION RESULT

Judge: Dan Holmes

## Digital Monochrome

1ST PLACE	Playing football on the beach	Jim McKinniss
2ND PLACE	Matanuska glacier	Penny Powell
3RD PLACE	Manzanar	Jim McKinniss

## Digital color

1ST PLACE	A long way to the end	Jeanine Bognuda
2ND PLACE	Lit by the last rays	Jeanine Bognuda
3RD PLACE	Teepees under the storm	Jeanine Bognuda
HONORABLE MENTION	Flowering tree trunk	Alejandro Preciado
HONORABLE MENTION	Just breathe	Jeanne Sparks

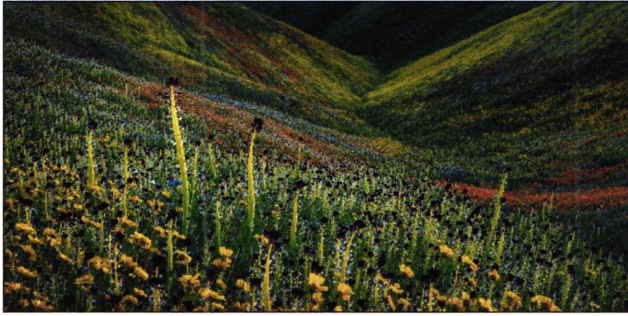
*Congratulation to everyone*



Jeanine Bognuda



Jim McKinniss



By Jeanine Bognuda



By Penny Powell



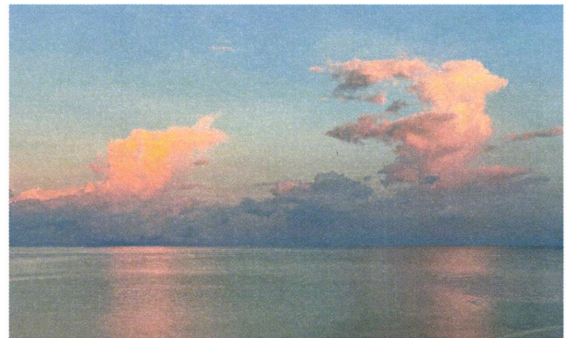
By Jeanine Bognuda



By Jim McKinniss



By Alejandro Preciado



By Jeanne Sparks

## SMCC Field Trips for April 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.

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



The banner features a navigation bar with links: HOME, EVENTS, TOURS, STORE, HISTORY, GALLERY, CONTACT US. Below the navigation bar is the museum's name: MENDENHALL'S MUSEUM OF GASOLINE PUMPS & PETROLIANA. The main image shows a collection of vintage gas pumps and signs, including brands like Dixie Gasoline, Shell, and Esso. To the left of the main image is a vertical sidebar with a large eagle logo, the museum's name, and a Facebook icon. Below the main image is a block of text describing the museum's collection and location.

The Mendenhall Museum is a private collection located in California's beautiful Santa Ynez Valley. The museum has one of the west coast's 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 tours. 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.



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.

RSVP to by April 24<sup>th</sup>

\$15 donations per person will be collected at the museum. Family and friends are welcome!

Lunch after the museum is optional.

*Why go? – It is not too far to drive, and the displays are very accessible. Easy-peasy, lemon squeeze!*

**And Beyond...**

**May 2nd (Sat am) Early Morning at the Embarcadero and the Morro Bay Car Show**

**June – I am going to take a break.** If anyone would like to lead a field trip, this is your chance to shine!

## Message from Adi Ringer

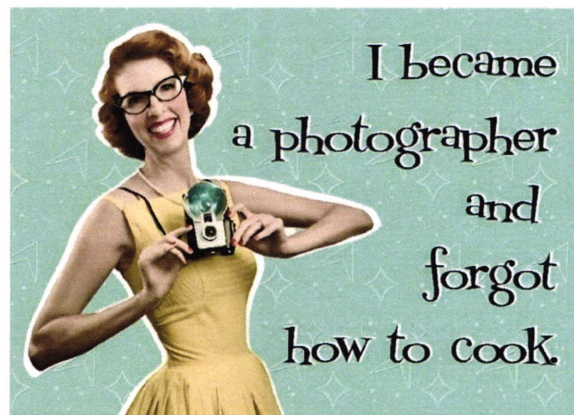
**Last Call for Costa Rica: May 7th - 15th, 2026**



Contact Adi Ringer for Details or check the website  
8056105527 or [adi@adiringer.com](mailto:adi@adiringer.com)  
[www.adiringer.com](http://www.adiringer.com)

**Save 10% through April 15th**

Adi Ringer,  
Email: [adi@adiringer.com](mailto:adi@adiringer.com)  
Mobile: 805-610-5527



# USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

## Meetings

In April there will be a program meeting (April 1st) and the competition meeting (April 15th)

## 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 Gruetzemacher

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 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, Bonnie Adams, Alan Upshaw, Greg Doudna
<b>Field trips</b>	
<b>Name Tags</b>	Nyla James

"It is one thing to take a picture of what a person looks like, it is another thing to make a portrait of who they are."

— Paul Caponigro