



the Galleon



The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter February 2024

President's Message

Hi everyone!

Hope you enjoyed getting together on January 26, 2024, for our Annual Awards Dinner and Installation at Lake Marie Valley Club as much as I did! It was so fun to see you all and sample the variety of food and drinks everyone brought. And what would the atmosphere have been like without the thousands of frogs serenading potential mates. Wow. We only had to talk a little louder to be heard over them.

We installed our 2024 officers: Jeanne Sparks, president; Elaine Calvert, vice president; Alan Upshaw, treasurer; and Frank Tromp, secretary. Also installed were the board members-at-large: Nyla James, Flavio Parigi, Dian Thomsen, Jim McKinniss, Penni Powell, and Harold Litwiler.

I thoroughly enjoyed giving out our annual awards. We have so many talented photographers with impactful images and resolute members doing volunteer work to keep the club thriving with four meetings every month, occasional board meetings, a Year End Project, and numerous field trips! You all are impressive!

Thanks to Harold Litwiler for recruiting Mack Davis to select the Top 10 images in Color and Top 10 images in Monochrome out of the 93 images that placed or were given honorable mention awards in 2023. Thanks to Greg Doudna for working with Mack and making and presenting the slide show of all the images as well as making certificates for all the award winners! He does a lot of essential work behind the scenes.

Top Ten in Color were:

- 1st Place – “Capturing Valley View” by Jeanne Sparks
- 2nd Place – “The Blue Swallow” by Ed Powell
- 3rd Place – “Street Artist” by Elaine Calvert
- 4th Place – “A Quiet Stream” by Harold Litwiler
- 5th Place – “Just Another Spectator Sport” by Frank Tromp
- 6th Place – “North Head Lighthouse” by Ed Powell
- 7th Place – “Backwards Attack” by Jeanne Sparks
- 8th Place – “Camelot Comes to Pismo” by Ed Powell
- 9th Place – “Random Encounter in the Wild” by Larry Decker
- 10th Place – “Evening on the North State Street Chicago” by Cheryl Decker

Top 10 in Monochrome went to

- 1st Place – “Desert Playa” by Ron Calvert
- 2nd Place – “Amanda #12” by Jim McKinniss
- 3rd Place – “Early Morning Ice Skating Street into Millenium Park” by Cheryl Decker
- 4th Place – “A Perfect Place to Rest” by Harold Litwiler
- 5th Place – “Light and Shadow” by Ed Powell
- 6th Place – “Desert Layers” by Penni Powell
- 7th Place – “Saguaro” by Ed Powell
- 8th Place – “Clouds Over Mt. Whitney” by Gregory Doudna
- 9th Place – “Cold and Alone” by Larry Decker
- 10th Place – “Threshold” by Ed Powell

Out of the 20 top images, members and guests chose the following for People's Choice Awards. Two images tied for second place.

1st Place – "Blue Swallow" by Ed Powell

2nd Place – "Desert Playa" by Ron Calvert

2nd Place – "Cold and Alone" by Larry Decker

3rd Place – "A Perfect Place to Rest" by Harold Litwiler

Honorable Mention – "Street Artist" by Elaine Calvert

All year long, the club keeps track of all the points each member earns on the images they entered into competitions. Those with the highest points in color, monochrome, and overall win Total Points Awards. Thanks to Scorekeepers Elaine Calvert and Penni Powell and Score Tabulators Richard Russ and Flavio Parigi for making these awards possible.

- The "Total High Points Award for Color Images" went to Elaine Calvert.
- The "Total High Points Award for Monochrome Images" went to Jim McKinniss.
- The "High Points Photographer of the Year" award went to Jim McKinniss.

It was my pleasure to present Frank Tromp with our outstanding service award, the Shepard Award, named after the late Dr. Dennis Shepard, who was a club member and secured Merrill Gardens as a place for us to meet in perpetuity. Frank served as our secretary last year, sending out numerous messages and taking board minutes. He handled competitions as needed and organized the Pizza Party. He went beyond – always with a smile!

I created the "President's Choice Awards" to recognize dedicated work by several club members. They received coffee mugs proclaiming the following:

- "It is official. You are awesome" to Greg Doudna for his work each month compiling images, coordinating with judges, running competitions, and updating the website.
- "You're doing great" to Flavio Parigi for getting club members to turn articles in for the club newsletter every month, producing the newsletter in a timely manner and being the photographer during our unique events.
- "Enjoy the journey" to Penni Powell for organizing field trips all year.
- "You are my favorite" to Alan Upshaw for keeping me on track with things the club needs to be doing according to the bylaws and taking care of necessary paperwork to keep our finances in order.
- "You are the best" to Cheryl Decker for serving as our president during Covid – keeping the club going while other clubs closed – then volunteering to be vice president organizing monthly programs and recruiting judges each month.

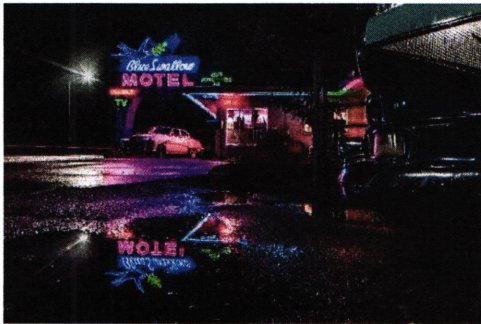
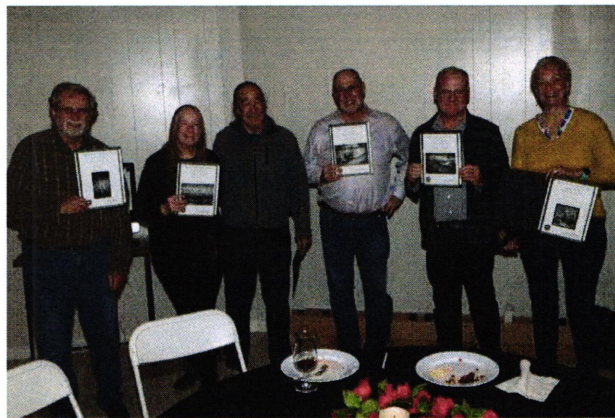
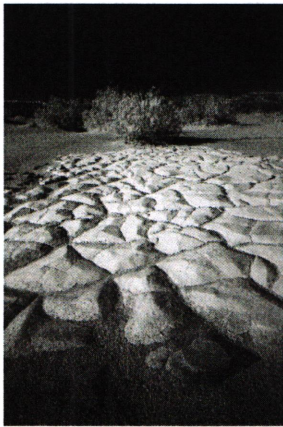
I gave out one more award to thank the club members who organized and ran the Holiday Party while I was on vacation. I did not have to worry about a thing knowing they were handling it. Girl Scout Thin Mint cookies went to Nyla James, Elaine Calvert, Rosie Brancacio and Penni Powell.

Thanks to the club members who helped organize and run the annual awards reception: Penni Powell, Rosie Brancacio, Elaine Calvert, Harold Litwiler, Greg Doudna, Joyce and Glenn Bolivar, and my husband, Ken Hough, who helps me in so many ways.

Longtime Club Treasurer **Bill Hood** has been made an ***Honorary Member*** of the SMCC for his over 20 years of service to the club.

This month, on February 7, we will meet online instead of in person to conduct the Year End Project Awards. Thanks to Jim McKinniss for handling that! Hope to see you online February 7!

Jeanne Sparks



Gleanings from the 2023 Annual Awards Judging Comments by Penni Powell

We had some humor provided to us, apparently unintended, at the Awards Night presentation by the judge, Mack Davis. He was truly kind to put his commentary in writing that was then read aloud by myself and Elaine. I give you my gleanings from the written comments, some tongue in cheek but the final bit is worth repeating again.

Color Category

#10 is Evening on the North State Street Chicago – Cheryl Decker

The image has impact mainly because of the enormous number of elements involved...

#7 is Backwards Attack – Jeanne Sparks

I did not pick on the title of winner #10, but titles are particularly important. Backwards Attack is spot on as far as what is going on here. Whether is flirty or outright angry aggression—the attack is on...

#5 is Just Another Spectator Sport – Frank Tromp

Clever title. So, what is the sport? That is what drew my attention. It makes me look all over the image...

B/W Category

#10 is Threshold – Ed Powell

... The title lends itself to speculation is the person on the threshold of jumping to his death on the other side of the mountain. Or is it that he is just contemplating the past decisions of his life behind him and the kind of future he may have ahead...

#9 is Cold and Alone – Larry Decker

The title seems appropriate—although we have to imagine a tree can have human feelings...

#8 is Clouds Over Mt. Whitney – Gregory Doudna

... The title is not helpful but an adequate description of what we are looking at. Scenery is not easy to name sometimes—now if it had a person walking through, or an animal or a rusted-out car body—there could be something to help us imagine

#7 is Saguaro – Ed Powell

The title must be a reference to the Saguaro National Park in Arizona. It probably means more to the maker than to viewers, especially if they are not familiar with the park. Again, not always easy to name.... what about Desert Cactus Candle...

#6 is Desert Layers – Penni Powell

Even though the title is simple, it is very appropriate...

#5 is Light and Shadow – Ed Powell

This image brings back a memory for me. Several years ago, I photographed a school under construction, for the contractor. It was 10:00 a.m. and the side lighting in and around the many parts of the building materials, gave me lots of really nice shadows and lines. So, seeing the image here on review, I recalled the title I used on my own print (that actually won a merit ribbon in competition) ...So even though I like the contrast here—and it is an exceptional black and white

image—I like my title a little better. If the maker wants to use it at some point, feel free. My title was Shadows, Shapes, lines, and Angles.

#4 is A Perfect Place to Rest – Harold Litwiler

First off, if the cat were not in this shot, the title would not work that well for me. The man lying down does not look all that comfortable. So, it only becomes a perfect place to rest when your eyes cast up to the ledge where the cat is displaying obvious comfort...

#3 Early Morning Ice Skating Street into Millenium Park – Cheryl Decker

I am not fond of the title. It is too long, and I am not sure it is accurate. Is it really a street for ice skating? Maybe a better title could be “Tricky, Curvy City Entrance” ...

#2 is Amanda #12 – Jim McKinniss

Really, that is the best title.... For me, photographs with people need to speak to me. What might Amanda say if she caught me looking at her. I bet it would be, “What are you looking’ at, Bozo?” The image would have scored several points higher with a better title. As it is, it is a great image for me!...

#1 is Desert Playa – Ron Calvert

I do not know what that title means, so marks down—but the image is so strong, it still gets the #1 spot.
for me...

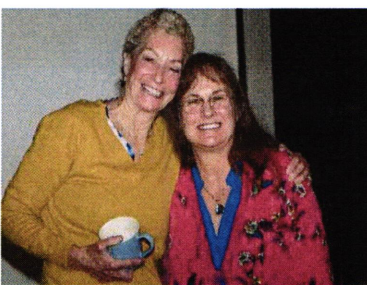
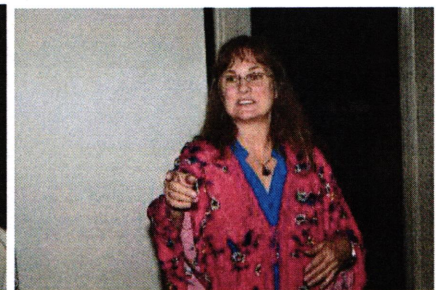
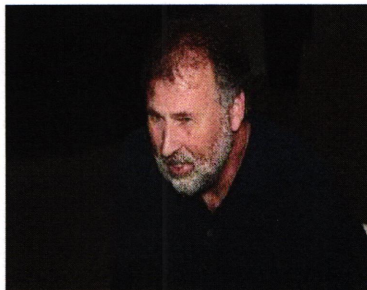
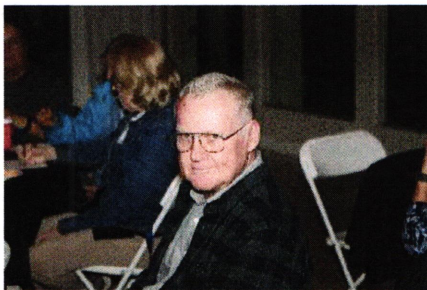
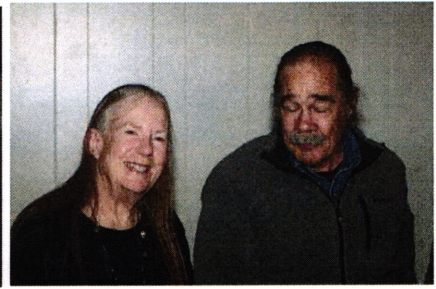
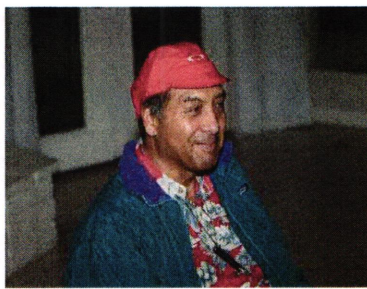
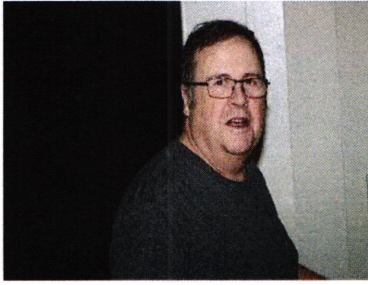
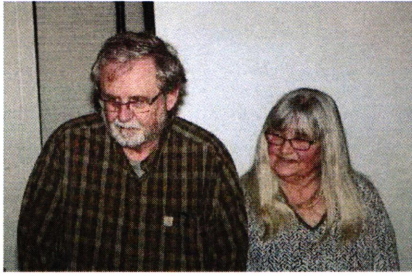
Ultimate thoughts

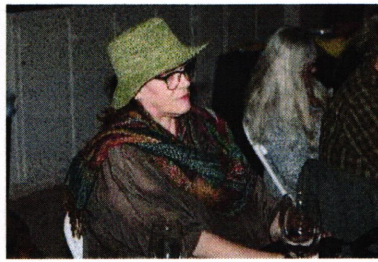
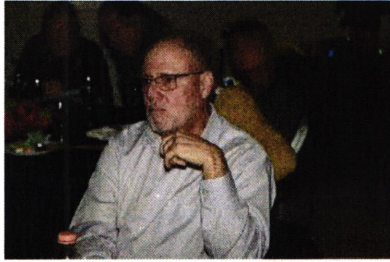
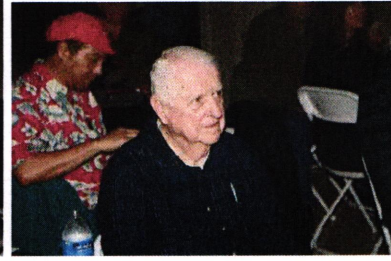
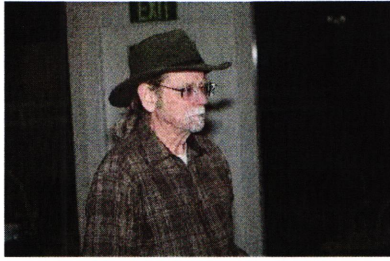
I remember sitting in numerous print competitions and listening to the judges’ remarks. He (or she) was from southern CA or sometimes back East. It is easy to think, “Oh that remark is so far off base—what does he/she know about the difficulty in getting that image just before the storm hit.

He/she was not there. As true as that may be, I am reminded of a saying I heard while being part of a criminal trial while I was on the police department. Two men were discussing a ruling made about some of the evidence presented. They were extremely critical of the judge. An elderly attorney in the room was not far from where the men were talking. He overheard their comments and made this remark.

“You may not agree with the judge—he may not always be right, but he is always the judge.” And he always gets the final say. Remember this too—Judging is highly subjective. We have a few standards rules about photography. But sometimes it just boils down to—I just like that one best. Thank you for the opportunity to judge your competition. Keep shooting, keep it fun and keep sharing your treasures with others.

Mack Davis





Vp message

Our first program meeting of 2024 will be held on February 7th and will focus on our End of the Year project for 2023 - "Street View". This will be an On-Line program meeting via Webex Images submitted were judged by Paul Blieden, and the scores and winning images will be presented to us much the same as in our regular competition meetings, with comments from our judge about each image entered. A big thank you to Jim McKinniss for taking on this special project and getting it judged! After the judging of or special project images, we will have time for a show & tell. Please submit up to 3 of your favorite images from 2023 for sharing and discussion. If we have seen the image before in a competition, no problem. If it is not competition worthy, no worries. This is more about being an image that is special to you in some way, and a part of our last year in photography.

Elaine

Message from our past president

I call all of you friends! You have helped Larry and me become much better photographers over the last eight years. We are moving to Tucson AZ, but you are not getting rid of us. We will continue to meet you online for competitions and in person on field trips. If you are planning a trip through Tucson, we hope you will let us know and visit with us.

We are holding an open house at our place before we leave... we hope you will come by and reminisce. We would like to see you!

Saturday February 10 from 1-4pm.

Cheryl and Larry Decker

5925 Olivera canyon rd.

407-421-2512

Cheryl

Do not Forget...2024 SMCC dues are Due!

Individual Membership: \$35

Family Membership: \$50

Competition Dues (*per member, including each person in a family membership*): \$30.

Make checks payable to: Santa Maria Camera Club

Please mail your check to me, Alan, or give it to me at any in-person meeting, or event.

Dues need to be paid by the end of February to participate in competitions, and to be listed in the club directory.

Special Note: Longtime Club Treasurer **Bill Hood** has been made an ***Honorary Member*** of the SMCC for his over 20 years of service to the club.

Alan

NEW Submission Guidelines for Online Digital Competition

To best display your image files submitted for entry into the digital competitions, we will need you to follow these guidelines:

1. You are limited to 3 total image submissions in any category per competition.
2. Digital images must be in the JPEG format.
3. 8-Bit, sRGB color space. Save in highest quality, least compression.
4. Resize to a maximum of 3840 pixels horizontal X 2560 pixels vertical. They may not exceed either of those dimensions.
5. For optimal viewing online against a dark gray background, it is suggested to put a 2 or 3 pixel white or other appropriate color border around the resized images.
6. Name each image file, appending -Mono or -Color whichever is appropriate.
Example: **imagename-Color.jpg** imagename-Mono.jpg
7. Entries must be consistent with the Online Competition Rules.
8. Submit each digital image via email to santamariacameraclub@gmail.com no later than the Sunday prior to the Wednesday competition. Late submissions will not be submitted for judging.
9. You should expect to receive an email acknowledgement for your submissions.
10. Submission Entry Tags are no longer required.

JANUARY COMPETITION RESULT

Judge: Dan Holmes

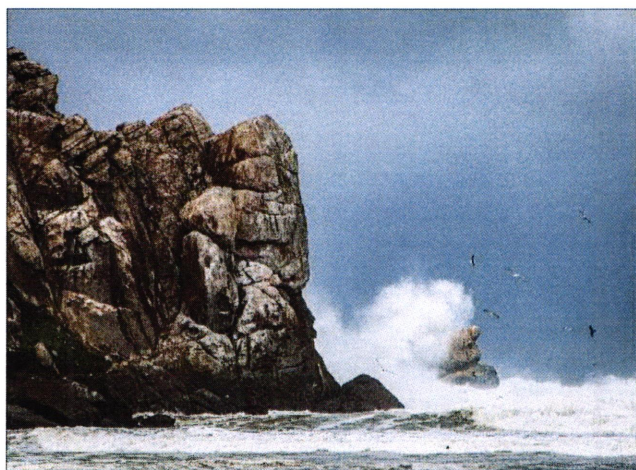
Digital Monochrome

1ST PLACE	Mallory 22012-12-05 # 8	Jim McKinniss
2ND PLACE	Graceful beauty	Jeanne Sparks
3RD PLACE	Man from Bhutan# 5	Jim McKinniss
HONORABLE MENTION	Lobster village	Harold Litwiler

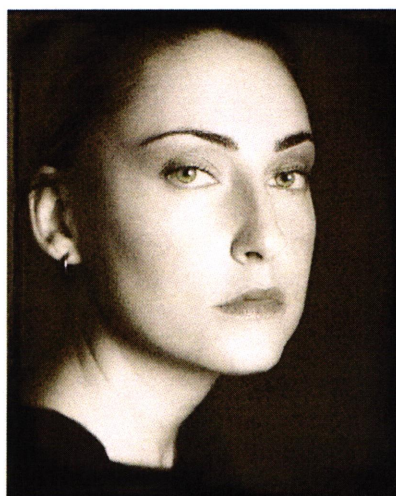
Digital color

1ST PLACE	Savage seas	Gregory Doudna
2ND PLACE	Evening at the Midway	Elaine Calvert
3RD PLACE	Coolness personified A patch of sun at Hornbeck	Jeanne Sparks
HONORABLE MENTION	homestead	Ed E. Powell

Congratulation to everyone



By Gregory Doudna



By Jim McKinniss



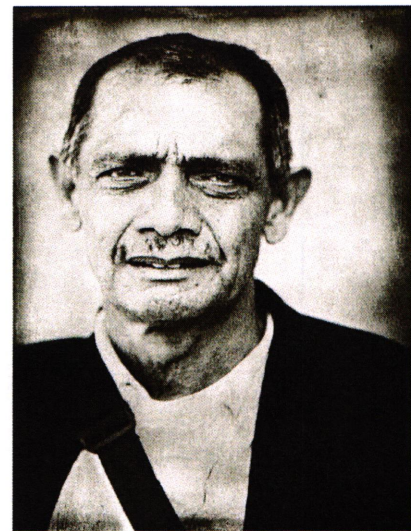
By Elaine Calvert



By Jeannie Sparks



By Jeanne Sparks



By Jim McKinniss



By Ed E Powell



By Harold Litwiler

SMCC Field Trips for February 2024 and Beyond by Penni Powell

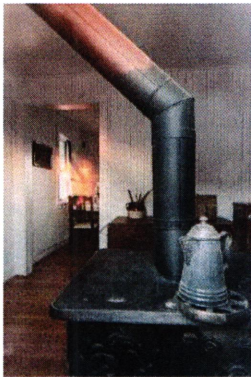
Please note: Bad weather can cancel outdoor activities. Contact the leader if you are in doubt. Check your email for any updates.

Feb 23rd (Friday 10am – 10pm?): Daytrip to Col. Allensworth State Historic Park and the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge by Earlimart, CA

Yes, it will be a long day but worth it to see the sandhill cranes fly overhead at dusk with a rising full moon at Pixley NWR. Also in the area is Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park that we will explore.

Col. Allensworth State Historic Park is a town founded, financed, and governed by African Americans in the early 1900s. Today, a collection of lovingly restored and reconstructed buildings – including the Colonel's house, Phillip's house, and a historic schoolhouse – gives new life to the dreams of these visionary pioneers of California's Central Valley. Burrowing owls and other creatures can be spotted around the grounds. You can stroll near or far among the buildings.

Nearby is Pixley NWF, home to a wintering sandhill crane population along with other feathered friends. At dusk, they fly into the refuge after feeding all day. It is a sight to see the V-shaped flocks as they approach and sometimes fly overhead to land in the marshes, honking all the way. The birds along with a rising, near full moon at sunset can be fantastic for photography. The hike to and from the parking lot to the observation platform is 1.5 miles and flat. Bring a light just in case.



Photos by Ed E. Powell



For this trip, please RSVP with Penni: Penpowell2020@gmail.com or phone 805.363.1931. I do not want to be the only one on the trip! We will decide on a meeting place at 10am. Call me if you have questions.

WHY GO? - Spread your wings (with a little honk, please) and learn about California's 20th Century African Americans during Black History Month!

And Beyond...

Mar 7th (Thurs pm): Patterns in Nature – The Oceano Dunes

Total Solar Eclipse in Texas April 8th (a camping spot is available in Bandera TX, Imk if you are interested)

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

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

Meetings	In February there will be a program meeting (February 7 th) and the competition meeting (February 21 st)
Location	In February both of the meeting will be via WebEx. If you want to participate, <i>please send an email to santamariacameraclub@gmail.com</i>
Membership dues	\$ 35 per person; \$ 50 Family; \$ 30 to participate in the competition meeting. All the due are per year
2024 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
2024 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
2024 Special Subjects	March – Patterns in nature June – Abstractions September – Weather
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 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
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, Ramona Cashmore, Penni Powell
Program Recruitment	Alan Upshaw
Refreshment	Everyone
PSA Representative	Nyla Janes
Library Coordinator	Larry Decker
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 the only language that can be understood anywhere in the world."
— Bruno Barbey