the Galleon

Affiliated since PSA Photographic Society of America

The Santa Maria Camera Club Newsletter June 2020

President's Message

Hello my photography friends!

This isolation will not be forever. I am hopeful for a vaccine by year's end BUT in the meantime, we are planning some new ways to share, learn and compete. The SMCC Board of Directors approved plans for competition starting on June 17, 2020. Rosie will send more information so watch you are emails. We will email digital images to Greg Doudna and a real time online judge will provide feedback and scoring in two categories, B&W, and color. We are trying this format and may make some revisions as we go. Since many of you are new to Webex, we plan a June 3 dry run for all club members. I hope you will participate. It will give you a chance to get comfortable with accessing Webex ,you'll learn online meeting etiquette and it will give you a chance to see and speak with those friends we haven't been with for 3 months.

Alan is planning some first Wednesday online Webex education and he has great ideas. Penny has planned two social distancing outings... Milky Way night photography and the lighthouse trip which is now September 11. If you did not sign up for this field trip previously you will need to do this. See Penni's update in this Galleon.

We heard that some other clubs have not had great participation for online competitions. I want you to know that Greg Doudna and Jim McKinniss have done a lot of work to make this happen. Please give this format a try, it will be different but hopefully rewarding in new ways.

If you produced a photography book last year and you have not written an article about the process, planning and joy in this...we need for you to submit a short article to Flavio for the next Galleon. It would be great if everyone in the club produced some type of book, small, large, detailed or not. It is an exercise and we grow in skill and ability when we try new things.

My last words this month concern the position of 'judge recruiter'...since no one has volunteered perhaps our online format will allow us to access judges never available to us! Do you know someone in who judges in Boston? San Diego? Minneapolis? Tampa?

We can still pay them for judging. If you would call or email them about their willingness and then send me their contact info and a bio if they are willing to be an online judge.

Stay safe everyone and see you soon online,

Cheryl

Editor's Message

In the last few months, I have read some interesting news on the photo market front. Kodak is restarting the production of Extachrome and Ilfod recently introduced a new black and white film, along with new paper. On Amazon, during 2019, the most highly sold photography related item was the Fuji Film that replaced the old Polaroid film. The most requested item by clients at B&H, New York's most famous camera store, is the vintage completely mechanical Hasselblad - once located by the store they are sold immediately and interestingly, most buyers are younger, turning from digital to embrace film photography, Only a few years ago the pressing question on social media was "is film dead", but now we see the surfacing query "is it better to use film or digital?" I recently discussed this with a photographer who theorized "this question is analogous to comparing apples to oranges, both are fruit, but the color is different, the taste is different, and the texture and consistency is different. Film and digital are two different approaches in arriving to the same destination - creating a picture that evokes the intention of the photographer. Both are tools that have pros and cons with no right or wrong". I think this is a satisfying response as perhaps we spend too much time on technique. Do not get me wrong, it is important, but let us just get out there and have fun taking pictures - after all, isn't that what we love?

Flavio

June 3 Program Meeting

Our club has been unable to meet in person since the outbreak of Covid-19. A group of our members has been looking into various computer programs that allow us to meet online. After careful consideration, we have decided to use **Webex(** https://www.webex.com **)**, a *free to use* program, that runs on Windows PCs, Macs, tablet computers and cell phones. It can be run through the Webex app (or just by logging into the computer) with the email link Greg will send you prior to the meeting. To kick things off, we will make the June 3 meeting, a chance to learn how to use Webex. This program will be used to hold our Competitions and Saturday Chat. Club members will be emailed links to the website as well as links to some tutorials to get started.

Webex is a relatively easy program to use, even for a novice. If your computer does not have a mike, it is possible to connect audio by phone. The June 3 meeting will be a way to get introduced to the new environment and work out any problems or questions members will have.

Please review the **Webex Guest Setup information**, prior to the program meeting and install the Webex Desktop App. You will receive a Join the Meeting Invitation email from Greg shortly after 6:45pm the evening of the meeting. Simply clicking on Join Meeting will connect you to this virtual video program meeting.

In the future we can look forward to regular Programs and Show & Tell, along with Saturday Chat and Competitions. Due to the crazy situation right now, there will be no summer break for Program Meetings, so we plan to meet online until things get back to normal. We hope to see everyone soon, even if it is online. Feel free to contact me, or any other board members with any concerns or questions. Stay healthy!

Alan

Message and computer instruction from Greg

Webex Guest Setup

It is recommended that you install the Webex Desktop App as it provides more screen controls than the Web Based Browser version. You do not have to create an account.

- Go to webex.com/downloads
- Download the appropriate Windows or Mac version
- Run the downloaded .msi (Windows) or .dmg (Mac)
- Follow the installation instructions
- The Webex Meetings desktop app opens when the installation is complete.

Computer Speakers are highly recommended. WebCam and Microphone are not required but greatly improve your experience.

You will receive an Email invitation to Join Meeting, typically 15 minutes prior to the meeting.

Click on Join Meeting, it will open a web page at Cisco. Chose Open Cisco Webex Meeting or Open the Desktop App if you have already installed it.

(If not, you can install now. Click the Download it Now link at the very bottom of the web page. This will download webex.exe. You will be prompted to click on the downloaded file which will start the install process.)

Click on Join Meeting in the Webex Desktop App.

You may have to wait for the Host to Admit you. If you are joining a Competition Judging meeting you will be Muted automatically. Host, Judge and Score Keeper will be Unmuted.

The following optional settings may improve your desktop appearance.

Tool Bar in Upper Left corner of Screen

- View
  - Uncheck Show Participants Video if not already done

Enable Full Screen Mode or use these keyboard commands below.

- Windows **Alt+Enter** use **ESC** to exit full screen mode
- Apple **Shift+CMD+F** use **ESC** to exit full screen mode

Toggles Off/On Meeting Controls display

- Windows: **CTRL+Shift+Q**
- Apple: **CMD+Shift+Q**

Santa Maria Camera Club online competition rules (Effective June 1, 2020)

These temporary rules allow us to conduct club competitions online when physical meetings are not possible for an expected long duration, such as during a pandemic.

General Online Competition Rules

1. Categories for competition:

   Digital Monochrome
   Digital Color

   Each category will be judged separately. Titles will be announced to the judge as the images are presented for judging.

2. Entries may only be submitted by a member in good standing.

3. All parts of the image must be photographed by the competitor. Entries may be processed commercially.

4. Members will use the PSA definition for monochrome entries: A monochrome image is defined as having no more than one color (various shades of that color, from very light to very dark) but it may be in any one single color. It is the finished image which must be evaluated, not the process by which it is made.

5. The digital entries must be submitted as outlined in the digital submission instructions (Attachment A and posted on the club website).

6. Each member may submit a maximum of two entries per competition in any combination of categories.

7. An annual $20 competition entry fee is charged for any member who wishes to compete during the year. The competition fee can be paid with the yearly dues or at the first month of competition.

8. An image may be resubmitted for competition one additional time provided it has not received an award. Once an image has received an award, it may not be entered again. The image may not be reversed or altered to be entered in another category, e.g., changing a color image to monochrome. It is still considered to be the same image.

9. Competitions will be held monthly except for December.

10. Special Subject themes will be assigned for three of the monthly competitions each year, or less if not a complete year.

11. Judges will award points in a range of 3 –21 with prime consideration given to COMPOSITION, TECHNIQUE, and IMPACT. Ties shall be broken by the judge. PRESENTATION (matting, matte colors) will not be judged.

    Additional points will be awarded monthly as follows by the scorekeeper:

1st Place	(4)
2nd Place	(3)
3rd Place	(2)
HM	(1)

    These additional points are included in the tally for the end-of-the-year high points awards by category. They are not included in the tally for the overall high-point photographer of the year award.

12. Honorable Mention (HM) will be awarded based on one for every 10 entries in a specific category. If there are less than 10 entries, no HM will be awarded.

13. Images may be disqualified either before or after competition judging for failure to adhere to the stated guidelines above. The judge's decision will be considered by the Board pursuant to Article VII of the By-laws.

14. A member's entries will be handled with care in all club competitions; however, the club is not responsible for loss or damage to a member's entries.

15. No added names, titles or text is/are allowed on the photograph.

16. The identity of competition judges will be announced to the membership sufficiently beforehand so that members can know in advance who will be judging a particular competition.

17. The points tabulator will disclose the points status of any competition member at any time to any member who requests it.

Awards for Online Competition

1. Annual Online Awards will be presented as follows:

    Digital Monochrome Image of the Year
    Digital Color Image of the Year

2. The High Point Awards are given to the competitors with the highest accumulated points in each category. The high point awards will be based upon the highest total accumulated points for entries up to a maximum of 7. If more than 7 entries are submitted in a category the lower scores will not be counted in the total. This score specifically does include additional points awarded for placing an image.

3. A "High Point Photographer of the Year" award will be presented to the person with the highest accumulated points in all categories that the winner entered throughout the year. This score will not include additional points awarded for placing an image.

4. The Board Service Award (Dennis Shepard Award) will be announced by the President at the Annual Awards Banquet. It will be presented to the person or persons deemed by the President to merit this award.

5. Additional Awards may be given by the President as selected and/or deemed appropriate by the Board, e.g., the People's Choice awards.

Attachment A: 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:

- Entries must be consistent with the Online Competition Rules.
- You are limited to 2 total image submissions in any category per competition.
- Digital images must be in the JPEG format.
- 8-Bit, sRGB color space.
- Resize to a recommended maximum of 1920 pixels horizontal x 1280 pixels vertical, whichever is greater.
- For optimal viewing online, it is suggested to put a 2-3-pixel border, of white or other appropriate color, around the resized images.
- Save in highest quality, least compression.
- Name each digital submission file, prefix each with a sequential Alpha character: A Image 1, B_Image 2.
- All competition entries must have an entry tag.
    - Download PDF tag source Digital Comptags.pdf
    - Download Excel tag source Digital Comptags.xls

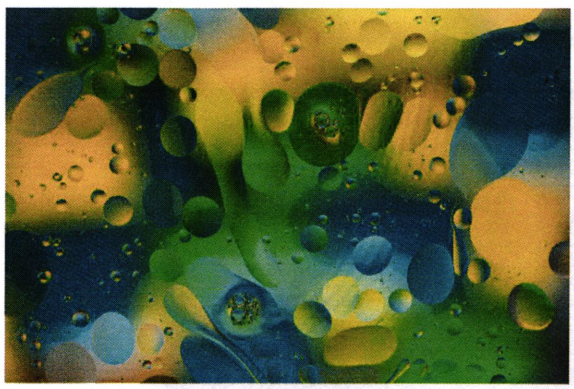
- Email your image(s) and entry tag(s) to the designated digital projectionist no later than the Sunday prior to the Wednesday competition.

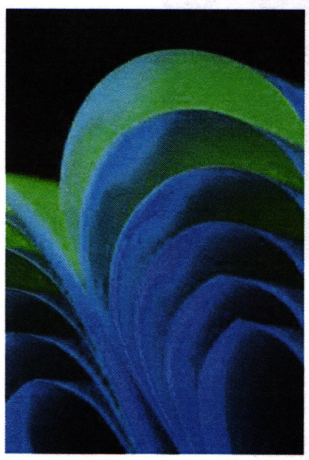
Message from Elaine

Practicing Photography While Stuck at Home

During this time of sheltering in place Ron and I have tried to keep our selves busy and find ways to practice photography. I decided I would try to take a photo of something almost every day, not even thinking about competition, but just keeping myself entertained and feeling somewhat creative. It has challenged me to think outside the box and push myself to learn new things. For one thing I had never really tried to use anything but natural light, so I have been trying to use more lighting set-ups. We have also got a lot of ideas from YouTube and have tried photographing things I probably never would have done before. Not that I am getting a bunch of award-winning images, but it has certainly kept me busy, and keeping my trigger finger happy. Just for fun I decided to share some of my photos (experiments) in the Galleon. I would love to see what others may have done too. I know I am probably not the only one who has found ways to make photos. Here are a few things we have tried: Oil & Water, Floating Flower in Water, Smoke, Dandelion-Playing with refraction, and Folded paper.

Elaine





SMCC Field Trips for June 2020 by Penni Powell 805.363.1931 penpowell2020@gmail.com

Please note: Bad weather or Covid 19 can cancel outdoor activities. Contact the leader if you are in doubt.
Check your email for any updates.

June 20th (Sat 7pm) – Astrophotography and the Milky Way, End of Huasna Road
We will meet at 7pm at Starbuck's in Nipomo (next to Miner's Ace Hardware, 581 West Tefft St.) to caravan to the photo spot at the end of Huasna Road in Arroyo Grande. That is where the pavement ends. There will be time to scout and take photos to have your foreground in natural light with the Milky Way showing up as the sky darkens.
It will just be us out there under the stars, so it is easy to social distance. Please be ready to wear a mask if anyone in the group would feel more comfortable with all of us masked.
Bring a tripod, light (red is best for night photography), drinks and snacks. It will get chilly so a jacket and hat will come in handy.
Greg Doudna is leading the field trip. Contact him if you have questions at gndoudna@gmail.com
Below is his photo of the Milky Way from Huasna.
THERE IS NO CELL SERVICE AT THE PHOTO SPOT.

Why Go? The stars cannot shine without darkness.

and Beyond...

Sept 11th (Fri 5:45 – 8:45pm) Point San Luis Lighthouse Sunset Photo Shoot
See the one-page flyer for more information and make your reservation today!

A meeting of Santa Maria Camera Club was held at Merrill Gardens on Feb 5, 2020. Meeting called to order at 8:39 p.m.

1. **Attendees:** Bill Hood, Flavio Parigi, Elaine and Ron Calvert, Cheryl Decker, Nyla James, Tony Martindale, Bob Ginn, Patty Blythe, Alan Upshaw, Penni Powell and Rosie Brancacio. We have a quorum.
2. Board Members not in attendance: Jeanne Sparks
3. Jeanne Sparks had revised the minutes and Jeanne was not at the meeting, so the Board could not read and approve the 'draft' minutes from the meeting held on Oct 2, 2019. Rosie will get the minutes from Jeanne and send out to the Board for approval. Approvals received back and minutes were approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** $2198.49 in the treasury. 38 paid members. We have a few bills still left to pay from the Christmas Party and Awards Banquet. Cheryl inquired on what amount we had at this time last year. Per Bill, the Club had $2351.
5. **Unfinished/Old Business**
   a. No Old Business
6. **New Business**
   a. **Request was made that when we send out emails to the group that we do not BCC to the group. This includes the informational emails that Rosie sends out as secretary of the Club.**
      i. Consensus was that Rosie's emails are fine to blind copy to the group.
      ii. If emails go out regarding Club business, then we should be using the carbon copy and not the blind copy on the email so that it is documented who the email was sent to. This also allows for all the recipients to respond to everyone on the email.
   b. **Education on the winning images**
      i. Cheryl discussed maybe having the Club members whose images placed in the competition, to read off what settings they used, what camera, etc. for the image. This would not be mandatory.
      ii. Bob suggested letting the photographer talk a little about the photo.
      iii. Alan mentioned that you can right click on the image and it will give you all the settings for the picture. Discussion that the description in the computer might not be accurate.
      iv. Cheryl made a motion to have the photographer talk for thirty seconds about their winning photo. This would be optional. Alan seconded the motion. Motion passed.
      v. Flavio will include this in the next Galleon and Rosie will put a blurb in the competition email reminder that is sent out.
   c. **Annual Banquet – Bob brought up the discussion**

i. Bob suggested maybe having the banquet somewhere else, like the Santa Maria Inn. Bill mentioned that the price would be $45 per person which is considerably higher.

ii. Nyla asked if we could investigate having it somewhere else. Bob and Nyla will look into it

iii. Penni mentioned maybe having it for lunch instead of dinner. Maybe a weekday dinner or Saturday lunch. Bob to report back in a couple of months.

d. Spanish Photographers

i. There is a group of Spanish photographers and they have more members than we have. Bob mentioned they were not interested in coming to our club or possibly judging. Bob just wondered if there was anything, we could do about it. Discussion around the table was that there probably nothing we could do to get them interested.

e. On behalf of Jeanne – Email from Kim Stanley

i. Needed – a Photographer to talk to the Vineyard 4H Club on the introduction to photography. Six students ranging from 9-16 for 1-1 ½ hours. This would be a one-time presentation on Tuesday afternoon.

ii. Rosie will send an email out to the club asking for a volunteer.

f. Dates for Events

i. Dec 9th for the Christmas party. Bill will call to confirm.

ii. Summer picnic. Cheryl volunteered her home for the picnic. Suggestion for May 30th.

iii. No need to set the Awards Banquet since we are waiting to get more information on that.

iv. Discussion on a date for the next Board meeting. Wednesday May 27th at 7:00 pm. Cheryl will inquire with Merrill Gardens if that will be okay to have the meeting there.

g. End of the Year Project

i. Cheryl asked if we were going to continue with books for the end of the year project. Bob suggested that people could talk at the Saturday morning chat to discuss ideas

ii. Elaine suggested a two-year project to get it all done, but consensus was that members would still put it off.

iii. Cheryl thought maybe someone could write an article for the gallon on book ideas and that might be helpful for the members.

iv. Ron suggested a collaboration to do a book.

v. Rosie to send an email to all the book contributors if they could send a paragraph to Flavio about doing a book for the Galleon.

vi. Tony Martindale suggested YouTube and show it at a Program meeting.

h. Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

FOCUS ON CLUB MEMBERS

Ramona Cashmore

Why did you start, and why do you continue, to take pictures?
I received my first camera when I was 12 years old and primarily used it to document family vacations, get-togethers with friends, etc. Over the years and then after marriage, I always had a camera with me to document life's happenings. In 2004, I started taking photo classes at AHC and realized I loved photography as an art form. I wish I had taken photography in high school or at least in my early college years because I would have had so much more experience and understanding of photography as self-expression and a statement of the way I see the world, than I do now.
Since my Hancock classes, I have loved shooting for the pure joy of capturing a beautiful image. I have been passionate about photography almost to the point of displacing other responsibilities. The last few years though, my life has taken on new priorities, and it has taken more of a backseat to other things. I still love taking photos and documenting our life, but it is not front and center to other things like it used to be.

Do you shoot color or BW?
I always shoot in color but if a photo would be suited for B&W, then I will convert it using Nik filters and see if it makes for a stronger image. I love B&W images but since going digital, color takes the stage.

The perfect subject for me is .....
Landscape images are my first love because I have always been inspired by the beauty of the world around me. Seeing God's creations - a gorgeous sunset, majestic mountains, all the colors, patterns, diversity, and textures - they all spell LOVE to me, and help me feel a sense of awe, wonder, peace, and a stillness of soul.
But I also really enjoy city scapes, street scenes, nature, architectural shots, and macro work. I am naturally drawn to leading lines, patterns, dramatic light and shadow, and scenes that evoke emotion or meaning in the subject.

The best photo I took was .....
That is a tough one because I am overly critical of my own work. I have lots of photos I like but choosing a favorite is difficult because I like each of them for different reasons.

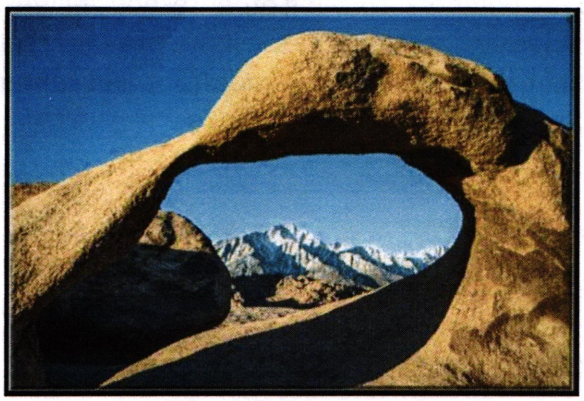
My next project (or idea or photo) is ....
A themed calendar or book of some of my work.

If I want to go out for my best photo, I will go out alone or with someone else because ....
Typically, I go out alone because I have control over where I want to go and how long I stay. I am perfectly happy to spend all day exploring new roads, drives, or areas looking for a great photo opportunity.

One artist that inspires me is and why?
I love Ansel Adams, Mark Muench, Christopher Broughton, and Chris Burkard's work - I love how they capture beautiful places and scenes. But I am also inspired by the work of my fellow Camera Club members.

What do you like most about this club?
I think we have a phenomenal group of photographers and I am often super impressed with the quality I see and the inspiration I receive from viewing other's work. I also love the enjoyment we have with one another and the many opportunities we have for field trips.

PHOTO FROM THE MEMBERS


By Greg Doudna

By Jim McKinniss

By Dian Thomsen

By Jim McKinniss

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

Meetings	1st and 3rd 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 MUST 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, Greg Doudna
Name Tags	Nyla James & Amaya Rangel

Treasury Report

We have 44 members in our club

Our bank balance is $ 2,209.18