



Placer Color



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Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club

April 2008

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<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

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Placer Camera Club meets the third Tuesday of each month, except July and August, at 7:00PM in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Placer County Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, Ca. **Visitors Welcome!**

This month's meeting will be Tuesday **April 15, 2008**. Informal gathering at **6:30** with the meeting starting **promptly at 7 PM**.

This month our guest speaker will be **Keith Sutter**. Keith is a working professional photographer located in Auburn. He will give a presentation on composition and good photography. See Keith's work at his website:
<http://www.sutterphoto.com/content.htm>

Club member Lee Whiting will start the evening with a short presentation on f-stop, aperture and depth of field. He will discuss how they are related and interdependent. A good understanding of how they work together is basic to good photography...don't miss it!

Don't miss the meeting this month...it's going to good.



OF WILDFLOWERS, WHITEWATER, & AN ARGUS C3

By Jim L White

Many of our camera club members have been hiking along our rivers and trails to see and photograph wildflowers in what looks like it will be a wonderful wildflower year. To help you enjoy the wildflowers and plants even more may I suggest you pick up a copy of the new “Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties”, published by the Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Chet Blackburn, Auburn botanist chaired the editorial committee that put the book together. The book took nine years to complete and features photographs and descriptions of 520 specimens, with more than 600 color photos in the book. Julie Carville, Nevada City author, botanist and field trip leader edited the text as well as contributed articles and many beautiful photos. In a chapter called “Places to See Wildflowers” many Nevada and Placer county trails are listed with what you can expect to see along the trails.

Julie also has a great piece in the April issue of Sierra Heritage magazine called “Spring Delight in the Foothills”, with beautiful color photographs of flowers and some good trails and places to find them. The owl and fungi pictures in this issue were so spectacular that I was blown away. The fungi shots made me order a right angle viewfinder right away.

If you do read Julie’s Sierra Heritage piece, thumb ahead in the magazine to page 32 and see my piece “Kayaking on the North Fork”, a story of my pals and I and our happy whitewater days on the North Fork of the American River before the building of Folsom Dam, in 1953. You might enjoy seeing what the river was like before the dam was built and see the old North Fork diversion dam below Auburn, but what was really interesting is the publishing of these black and white pictures I took more than 55 years ago.

My standard adventure camera in those days was the great Argus C3, which was the best selling camera in the world for more than 30 years. Kodak had come out with their first rangefinder 35 mm camera in 1939 (all shiny and chrome and full of switches and gadgets) and my millionaire schoolboy friend Charlie Knox (of the Knox Gelatin Co.) had one but I knew I would never be able to afford one. The Argus C3 rangefinder camera came out in 1935, looked like a black brick but was as rugged as a rock. I think they sold for \$29.95 with a case and flash and this I saved up for and finally bought. It was a technical looking camera which I loved, and I never had to have it repaired. Issued

by the military to front line combat photographers in the South Pacific during WW 2, many of the famous war pictures were taken with this camera. I packed it in a surplus rubberized waterproof bag (with a waterproof zipper) and it went to the bottom of the North Fork with me more than once. I used Kodak Pan X and Tri X film which I loaded in cassettes and developed and printed myself. I was unable to find the negatives (I have them somewhere) so the published prints were scanned by the publisher from my prints and are somewhat grainy, but I am too after all that wear and tear. It also makes me wonder if our digital files will be that good and publishable after the next 55 years! Never fear, I still have a freezer full of film. Jim

Go to www.redbud-cnps.org for more information on where the book and magazine can be purchased. Locally they are available at Easley's Nursery and the California Welcome Center, 13411 Lincoln Way in Auburn. The magazine is available in many book stores throughout Northern California, and at Raley's and Bel-Air markets.

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Notes from the Field

Text & Photos by Ardath Winterowd

I truly enjoy the challenge of photographing unique ♦ architectural ♦ features. A recent visit to the home of friends in the El Dorado Hills gave me that delicious opportunity. It was really a challenge dealing with the bright sunlight that day. I slightly enhanced the color in Photoshop, as well as sharpening the image.

Critiques are always welcome as I am a beginner at this wonderful passion I have for photography.



The Road Less Traveled

text & photos by Tony Hallas

A few weeks ago Daphne and I decided to go on a short road trip to see if we could find some migrating birds and to "explore". Our route took us east to Reno ... then north on 395 to Alturas ... a small town on the Modoc Plateau at 4500 feet elevation in the NE corner of California. There are bird sanctuaries up there and sure enough, we saw lots of ducks, white pelicans, osprey,



eagles, sandhill cranes, and geese to name a few.



The next day we continued north to the Oregon border ... in this area is Goose Lake, a rather large and unknown lake ... in some fields along the road Daphne saw something strange about the snow on the

ground ... it was moving! Closer inspection showed that we were looking at thousands upon thousands of migrating snow geese! Amazing sight ... but we had further to go ... into Oregon to the town of Lakeview where we had breakfast ... then took 140 east to Winnemucca. This leg of the trip was the most remote land I have seen in some time ... it really felt like the road to nowhere! You could go for 15 minutes without seeing another vehicle and you were glad when you did. Beautiful panoramas greeted you as you traversed the various mountain ranges ... wild burros populated the fields along the



road ... lonely winds whistled through the sagebrush ... visions of a warm fire and a hot meal began to occupy my head.

In one of the mountain passes a large waterfall thundered down ...



At Winnemucca we picked up I-80 and headed home completing the circle. If you have two days, I would recommend spending a night in Lakeview ... there are some nice motels there and a few good places to eat. An awful lot to see in this area including the Werner Mountains and some old outposts ... feeling a bit cramped and hemmed in by society and overpopulation? This is a sure fix

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On Watching Your E-mail Image Sizes

By Sue Barthelow

I received an e-mail message from a friend the other day. My friend, an artist, was sending information about an upcoming art show. She attached an MS Word file that was an incredible 2.6MB. I downloaded the file, very slowly since I only have an ISDN connection. To my surprise, the one page file included one image and a bit of text that described the art show and her pieces. The reason for the huge file – the image.

If you send images with your e-mail messages, please watch your file sizes. When you include a picture in a file, in an e-mail message, or as an e-mail attachment, know that all of those original pixels are not needed. Use your photo processing software to remove the unneeded and unwanted pixels so your family and friends aren't unduly impacted when they try to access it.

The minimum file size that works depends on the image. Some images can be as small as a couple of kilobytes. Some need to be as much as 100 kilobytes. Few need to be larger.

The next time you want to upload a file for use on a computer, don't forget to consider its size. Your family and friends will thank you.

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Smooth Flowing Water

Text and Photos by Sue Barthelow

Most photos depict a scene as it was when the shutter snapped - that blink of an eye image captured in vivid detail. However, many dynamic scenes improve when you add motion to your pallet. Flowing water is an excellent dynamic subject. Excite the artist in you as the water splashes by.



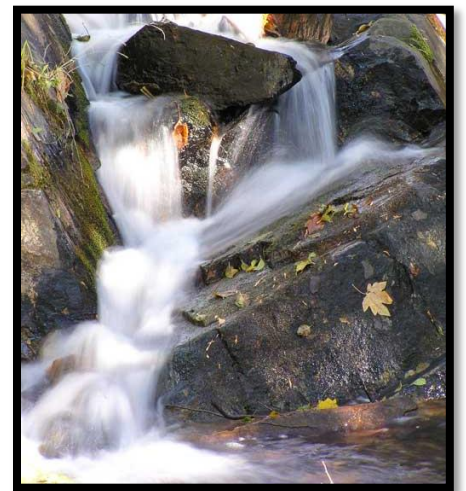
Water movement can be shot as everything from a static scene to a silky flow. Spring is the season that fills the local creeks and rivers with rushing volumes. Now is the time to perfect your smooth water shots.

Make the water flow like silk by using a long shutter speed. Take a number of shots at different speeds and then pick the image you like the best. Every situation has different light and, thus, needs different camera settings.

To keep the shutter open for the time needed to smooth the flow, you need dim light. Too much light is guaranteed to over expose your image. Controlling the light is the key to smoothing the flow.

How can you dim the light?

- Shoot early or late in the day when the ambient light level is low.
- Use a neutral density filter to block the light that gets through your lens. Also referred to as a stop-down filter, neutral density filters come in either a round form that screws onto the front of your lens or a rectangular form that slides into a frame that mounts on your lens. You can buy one of these filters to reduce the light by from 1 to 6 f-stops.
- Use a polarizing filter. This filter will keep up to 2 f-



stops of the light out of your lens. Perhaps even more important, it will improve your image by cutting out reflections coming from the water or wet rocks.

- Find running water that is in deep shade.
- Set your aperture to the highest setting allowed by your camera. This makes a tiny opening that will cut out much of the light.
- Combine your dimming techniques. You may find that deep shade and a polarizing filter are all you need.

The water may be moving, but you want everything else to remain sharp. Don't forget to use your tripod. Long shutter speed shots cannot be hand held

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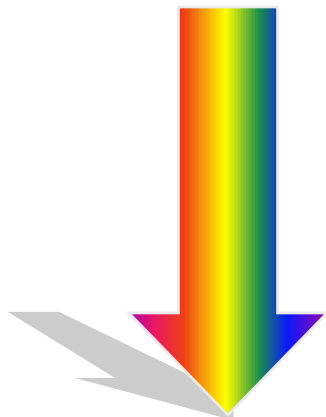
If you want to sell or are looking for photography related items members can list them in the newsletter or on the club website. Email or call me. Listings are free for members. Mike 530-367-4505 radioman@ftcnet.net

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Huey Monitor Calibration

The club has a Huey monitor calibration system for use by club members. Contact Judy Hooper to 'check out' Huey. 530-888-8308.

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Shooting Wildflowers

Text and Photos by Mike Schumacher

This time of year many of us are out shooting wildflowers. The first few times I shot wildflowers in bright sunlight I was disappointed with what my camera captured. That's not what I saw! The human eye has a much bigger dynamic range than a camera weather film or digital. Cameras can capture 5 to 6 stops of light whereas the human eye can process 12 plus. This is where diffused light comes in. Many of us have found out that bright overcast days are great for shooting wildflowers. The cloud cover creates diffused light rather than direct light. On cloudless sunlit days this is where a diffuser comes in. Diffusers come in various sizes. Typically 12 – 36 inches or even bigger. A diffuser is a porous piece of cloth that diffuses the light to spread it evenly eliminating shadows and softening highlights. It reduces the difference in stops of light between the highlights and the shadows to a value your camera can capture. What can be used in addition to a diffuser is a reflector. Both are lightweight and usually fold to a small package to fit in your bag. To use a diffuser position so it the sunlight filters through it onto the subject. Hold it close to the subject. Holding it too far away will cast a shadow. At this point if needed you can use a reflector to redirect some soft light onto the subject. Reflectors come in various colors, typically shades of gold or silver but can be made of any color you wish. Each will cast a different color or temperature of light. A reflector can also be made of any reflective material. Crumple it up and place it over a surface such as cardboard. For best results use a tripod and a remote shutter release.

The two Iris photos here are an example of what a diffuser will do. Notice the harsh light on the Iris without the diffuser and the even light on the Iris with the diffuser.



No Diffuser



Diffuser

Both were taken on a tripod and the only difference is the use of a diffuser.

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Swap Shop

FOR SALE

Nikon Nikkor 200mm f/4 Micro IF AIS lens. This is the manual focus model which focuses down to a reproduction ratio of 1:2 (half life size) without any attachments. Even at 1:2 magnification, the free-working distance is approximately 19.5 inches between the front of the lens and the subject. This is one of the big advantages of a long focal length macro lens over shorter ones. This lens is among the few top rated close-up/macro lenses in the world. It is tack sharp and easy to use. It will work on both manual and auto focus Nikon camera bodies, (in manual focus mode of course which is likely all you'd use in macro photography), both film and digital. Many people forget that it is also an excellent telephoto lens.

The glass is flawless. The diaphragm is crisp and smooth with the blades being perfectly dry. It has both the built-in tripod collar and sliding hood shade, each of which operates as new. Both original front & rear caps are included. I'm also providing a 52mm UV-Haze filter if you want to be extra careful with that front element.

As a bonus, also included is the **Nikon 4T Close-up Attachment Lens.** This is a high quality, multi-element diopter which increases the magnification ratio of the base lens without losing any light. It simply screws onto the front of the lens just like a filter. It is a great accessory for this lens. It is in mint condition and comes with its original box and paperwork.

For those that were subjected to my club presentation on Close-up/Macro Photography a few months ago, the majority of the images I shared during that time were captured using this very lens.

I'm looking to get \$310, (which incidentally is less than what comparable lenses are selling for on eBay, *without* the 4T, which is \$30-50 itself). I'd love to see someone in the club continue to enjoy this lens as much as I have.

I'll be bringing the lens to the next few club meetings if you want to attach it to your Nikon (or Fuji) 35mm or digital camera body and see what it can do. I can also be reached at 530-268-3475 or 530-320-8961 or rgjk@suddenlink.net.

Thanks, Richard Myren.

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Calendar of Events

April

15th – Camera Club Meeting –

Placer Camera Club Webpage

Check out the Placer Camera Club webpage. Webmaster Sue Barthelow has been doing a fantastic job! Thanks Sue!

<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

→ *Please feel free to contact me with items for the newsletter!*

Mike Schumacher (Newsletter) 530-367-4505 radioman@ftcnet.net

See you at the meeting March 18th at 7 PM!!