



THE NEWSLETTER THAT FOCUSES ON PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE FOOTHILLS

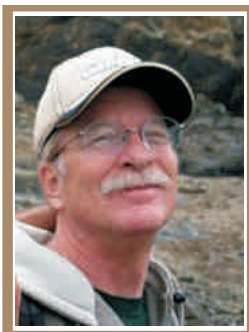
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The Placer Camera Club meets the third Tuesday of each month except August in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Placer County Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA. Visitors are always welcome.

The meeting starts promptly at 6:30PM.

The Presidents Corner by Mike Schumacher

This month we have Projected Image Critiques. The judge will be Keith Sutter. Keith is a commercial photographer based in Auburn. His website is <http://www.sutterphoto.com/> In addition Keith will give us a short presentation. Send your 3 images to placercameraclub@gmail.com



Auburn Night Shoot..... it will be Thursday April 18th. We will meet at 7 pm at the parking lot across from the State Theater and next to Big O Tires. We will shoot midtown, old town and points in-between. Sunset is at 7:43 pm so we can shoot twilight and night photos.

Come join us. Our past Auburn

Night Shoots have been a lot of fun!

Next month at the May meeting we will have Projected Image Critiques, judge to be announced. We have been given the opportunity to display our photography in the Beecher Room in July and August. Details will be provided as they become available.

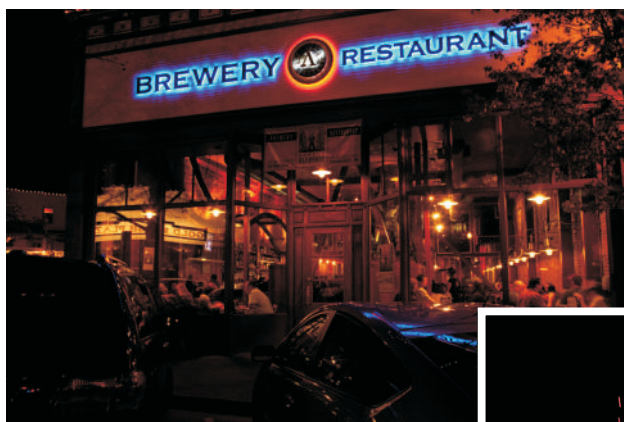
If you are going on a photo shoot and would like some company put together a short email with destination and meet time. I will send it out to the club and maybe you will have a couple of friends to shoot with!

See you April 16th!

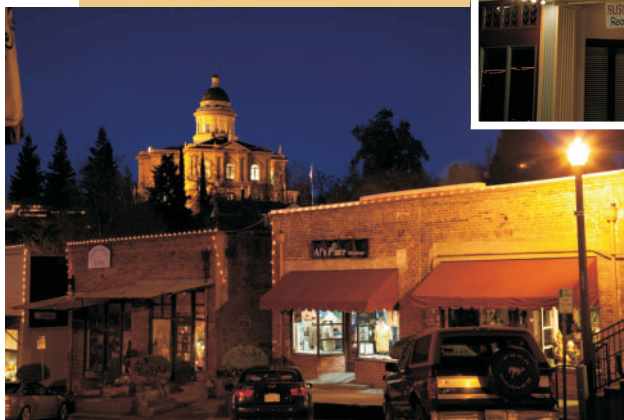
Mike Schumacher

President Placer Camera Club

Auburn Night Shoot "Come Join Us April 18th"



BRING YOUR TRIPOD



Photos from Mike Schumacher



From February 20 through February 25, 2013, I participated in a photography workshop with [Moose Peterson](#) and [Kevin Dobler](#) of K and M Adventures and seven other photographers in the Grand Canyon. It was a once in a lifetime experience for many reasons, not the least of which is that I had never previously visited the natural wonder that is the Grand Canyon. Plus, it was a thrill and a privilege to shoot along side Moose Peterson who is a renowned wildlife and landscape photographer and, as a designated Nikon Legend, he is frequently the eye behind the lens to test and feature many of Nikon's new cameras and lenses, including Nikon's newest, the D7100.

I was in awe of both the Grand Canyon and Moose from the time we arrived until Monday morning's last stroll along the rim which was only fifty feet from the Bright Angel Lodge inside the Park where we stayed for five nights. We were up and on the road by 6:00 each morning following the light (drive west for sunrise; drive east for sunset except when we did just the opposite; it's all about the light). Most mornings were a brisk and invigorating 0 degrees; daytime temperatures reached the high 20's and low 30's. The skies and the light changed so quickly that the views of the canyon looked different moment by moment. Morning sunrises featured clear skies or snow flurries or dark clouds or mists or fog. The one midday shoot on Thursday featured no views of the canyon; the snow and mists shrouded it in pure white. Late afternoon sunsets were like mornings: clear skies or snow flurries or dark clouds or mists or fog.

When he met me at the Flagstaff airport, I asked Moose what to expect and he told me he had no specific outline for the workshop. His teaching approach was hands off. He offered advice when asked, responded to questions when asked, and helped us with developing our photos. Moose would always ask if we had questions and would quiz us on things we had learned in earlier shoots.

I was the only girl on the shoot and was a little nervous about that. I was late the first morning and kept everyone waiting because I was watching the wrong van in the dark and cold on the opposite side of the building. I was mortified but I think they forgave me for delaying them 5 minutes and I was dubbed "Wrong Way Carol." After that, we all got along well. Nine of the 10 photographers shot Nikons, one shot Canon. Nine of the 10 used Macintosh computers, one used a PC. Eight used Adobe Camera Raw and two used Lightroom.

The ten of us (dwindled to 8 after Saturday) were together as a group from before sunrise when we met at the van until after dinner each day. We spent two or three hours with morning shots until the light was no longer optimum. Then we ate breakfast at a El Tovar, an elegant lodge down the road whose fare and service was superior to that of the Bright Angel Lodge. We spent 3 or so hours midday in the Bright Angel Lodge bar where we spread our laptops across the tables and processed our photos. Moose's software of choice for initial processing is Adobe Camera Raw. I use Adobe Lightroom which is almost the same but not quite so I used ACR while in the Grand Canyon and liked my results. When I looked over Moose's shoulder at one of his stunning shots of the canyon that he had changed to black and white, I commented to him that I wished my photos could look like his. He looked at me and said, "They can. Use NIK Color Efex Pro." And now that software is available to all of us free.

We spent the late afternoon from 3 to about 7 photographing the sunsets. We learned how to shoot time lapse and to convert the shots to a quick time movie. Nikon D800s (my camera) and D4s (everyone else's camera but one on the shoot) have the capability to shoot time lapse using the built in intervalometer. I am still having some issues with converting my two time lapse shoots to movies although everyone else on the trip was able to do it. I'll share with the club once I get it figured out. After dark, we returned to the El Tovar for a sumptuous feast, some wine, and lively banter.

As a result of one of Moose's comments to me, which comment was, "what is the subject?" when he looked over my shoulder at a shot I took the first morning and I was unable to quickly tell him what the subject was, I was more selective about what I chose to capture. As a result, I took far fewer photographs that I expected I would take. Despite taking fewer shots, I still have not had the time to review and edit most of the photographs I took because of other personal commitments. It will take some time to digest all that I learned and to assess the photographs I took. What an incredible experience I had. I was privileged to photograph one of the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders along side one of today's most talented wildlife and landscape photographers. I was not ready for the experience to end.



Photo by Kevin Dobler



Photo by Carol Smith



Photo by Carol Smith



Photo by Carol Smith





Photo by Carol Smith



Photo by Carol Smith





Photo by Carol Smith

The End

Photography Items For Sale

Submitted By Mike Schumacher

Canon 580 ex II Speedlite - \$285
Tamron AF 28-300 mm lens for Canon full or
cropped frame - \$100
Mike 530-367-4505 or
radioman@sebastiancorp.net



Wildflower Locations

Those of us who have been around a while throw these locations around like everyone should know them, sometimes we forget not everyone does. Here's directions to a few of the more productive wildflower locations in our region. All of them are reputed to have blooming flowers now. The amount of flowers & what varieties spring up varies from year to year depending on the rain & weather. Sometimes it takes more than one trip to catch the "peak" on that particular season.

Bear Valley Rd (Colusa County): At Highway 20 and I5 in Williams go west on Hwy 20 for approx. 16 miles. You'll see Hwy 16 intersect from the left just before the highway sweeps to the right. Immediately after that highway turn there's a right turn onto Bear Valley Rd. Just head North and stay on the main road. After about 5 miles you climb up into Bear Valley. It's a high flat valley of cattle ranches with flowers at the roadside & across the fences. It's private property, so it's not polite to enter the fields without an invitation. There is a pasture with a gate marked "wildflower access" up toward the north end of the valley. You can return the way you came, or go up to the head of the valley and turn right onto Leesville Rd which will take you back to Highway 20 east of where you turned off.

Table Mountain (Butte County): Take Hwy 70 north from Marysville to just past Oroville. Cross the Feather River at Oroville and shortly you'll see Grand Ave. Nelson Rd offramp. Take the offramp and go parallel to the freeway, turn right at the County offices. At Table Mountain Blvd there's a stop sign, across the intersection is Cherokee Rd. That's the road you want, go up Cherokee Rd and once up on top of Table Mountain you'll see a parking area on the left complete with some plastic outhouses. That's the place. The area behind the fence is open space with miles of trails to wander.

Buttermilk Bend (Nevada County): Take Hwy 20 west from Grass Valley out toward Penn Valley. Turn right at Pleasant Valley Rd pass Lake Wildwood & it's developments, you'll come to The South Yuba River State Park at Bridgeport. The Buttermilk Bend trail starts there along the river. Afterwards if you keep going in the same direction Pleasant Valley Rd ends up at Highway 49 in the outskirts of North San Juan a right hand turn takes you back to Nevada City.

Yankee Jim's Rd (Placer County): Yankee Jim's Rd runs off Ponderosa Way between Weimar and Colfax. Get off I80 at Weimar Cross Road turn left and you'll see it on your right a bit before Colfax, or get off at Canyon Way and turn back to the right at Canyon Way and it will be on your left. The road goes to Foresthill after crossing the American River. The best flowers are on this side of the river before you cross the bridge. If you go past the bridge about a mile you come to Devil's Falls right at the road. If you keep going you'll be in Foresthill.

With any of these roads I recommend having a map with some detail so you can see where those tempting side roads go. If you get off the main roads you can wander quite a ways in the hills before finding a way out.

This is prime wildflower time, time to get out before they're gone.

Bruce Gregory



Depth of Field in close up photography.

Submitted By Bruce Gregory

It's Wildflower season, while photoing wildflowers earlier this week I was thinking about how much depth of field reduces when using a telephoto or macro lens to get close & fill the frame. I photoed the same group of Cream Cups and Miniature Lupine with the same focal length at 3 different f stops which changed the depth of field from shot to shot. I was using a 80-400mm zoom at 360mm and 800 ISO. The pictures are labeled with the particular f stops. Note how the group of flowers goes from partially sharp to completely sharp, and how the background grasses do the same.

When you're shooting with a telephoto or macro the same f-stops that provide adequate depth of field with a normal or wide angle lens may not be adequate for what you desire. You need to stop down (higher f stop number) more to get similar results. In these examples I think I like the #2 example at f22 best. The first example at f5.6 leaves the flowers behind the front plane blurry, #3 is in complete focus, but it becomes too busy. The #2 example has the flowers sharp, but the background blurred which makes the main subject stand out. It's personal preference, you'll have to make up your own mind.



1_Bear Valley ISO 800 360mm F-5.6 3200



1_Bear Valley ISO 800 360mm F-22 1-250



1_Bear Valley ISO 800 360mm F-40 1-80

KNOW YOUR SETTINGS



Recently Mike Schumacher sent us a link to Google Nik Photo Processing Software. I love it!!

Here are some photos I've processed in Nik.



Old Miner's Shack - Somewhere in the Nevada Desert Processed in Goggle Nik, by Ardath Winterowd



Cemetery Angel - Paradise Valley, Nevada
Processed in Goggle Nik, by Ardath Winterowd



As I scrunched down in the lounge on our back deck, I was wondering where to go looking for wildlife tomorrow, now that all the cranes and waterfowl have gone north? A bright flash of yellow up in the Mulberry tree blinded my right eye and made me grab for the Nikon just in case. Wow! A Bullock's oriole swooped down and landed on one of Shirley's hummingbird feeder and tried to suck it dry. The bubbles in the sugar water streamed to the top of the feeder and I was amazed to see an Oriole so early this spring. Two to three pair usually nests nearby and work daily to drain Shirley's feeders. Last year they left after about a week to go somewhere north to cooler climes I thought. I got the shot but then heard a commotion up in another tree and then a branch fell onto the deck. A blur and a whirlwind of grey revealed a Grey Squirrel battling a Black bird just like the Sandhill Cranes do. The Black bird dove and struck the squirrel in the head with the squirrel jumping into the air trying to catch the bird. I had never seen these guys fight before so I yelled for Shirley but she was not to be found. The squirrel was not winning so he ran for the deck and ran right past me where he froze when he heard the Nikon's shutter clatter.

Later, after a short snooze I heard Shirley yelling from her vegetable garden. So I ran down the deck and saw her pointing up into the tree where the squirrel-blackbird fight had occurred. On a branch right next to what we had always thought was a squirrel nest sat this huge red and grey bird. I tip-toed back the way I had come and ran around the house so I could peek around the corner of the house a get a better view of the huge stick nest. Starring at me from 25 feet away was a huge Red-Shouldered hawk. Shirley yelled that it had just put a stick onto the big round nest. Who the heck lives there anyway? I got the hawk shot and then some and then went back to ponder this drama of our local wildlife. For the first time ever we had had two Canada Geese land in our back pasture a least five times this past week, and a neighbor says he could see them lying on the grass near our house very early in the mornings. I refused to take pictures of the Geese, we have so many of them around here, we think they are more common than the blackbirds.

Who needs to drive hundreds of miles looking for wildlife to photograph? We are staying home with the lounge on the deck with a fresh load of pixels and the refrigerator nearby.





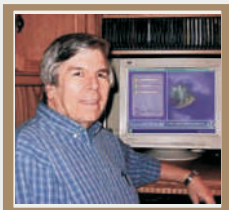
PCC Members Websites

We are starting a list of Placer Camera Club member websites. I am gathering a list of member websites and will email the list out as soon as it is ready. When the list is complete we will link to member websites from the Placer Camera Club website. If you would like your website or blog to be included send the website to me at radioman@sebastiancorp.net If you can, put a link from your website to the Placer Camera Club website. This is what I have so far:

| | |
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| Jim Cormier | http://www.squareonegraphics.com/ |
| Jim Bennett | http://www.youtube.com/user/lookydude |
| Bill Stenwick | http://bill-stenwick.smugmug.com/ |
| Sande Parker | http://windsongphotographytoday.com |
| David Keyes | http://davekeyesphotography.com |
| Robbin Maloney | http://robbinmaloneyphotography.com |
| Mike Schumacher | http://morningstarimages.com |
| Truman Holtzclaw | http://www.abiphotos.com/ |
| Walt Carnahan | http://www.sierrafoothillsaudubon.com/ |
| Ardath Winterowd | http://flic.kr/s/aHsjyv86dM |
| Ron Parker | http://www.photographybyronparker.com/ |
| Rod Bonser | http://tinyurl.com/rods-photo-sets |
| Sue Barthelow | http://www.suebarthelow.com/ http://www.suebarthelowimages.com/ |
| Tony & Kristi Middleton | http://tony-and-kristi-middleton.artistwebsites.com/ |
| Barry Walton | http://www.barrywaltonphoto.com/ |
| Carol Smith | http://infocusdaily.com/ |
| Steve Aldridge | http://www.stevealdridgephoto.com/ |



From Your Editor.



Hi All

I have been having a blast being the editor of the Placer Camera Club Newsletter. It presents a new challenge for me to try and come up with a fresh look each month. I welcome your suggestions and comments on how I might improve our newsletter.

We have the Night Shoot coming up on April 18th. I hope we have a good turn out and that all those who take part in the shoot submit one of the photos they took for the May newsletter.

Jim Cormier
Your PCC Newsletter Editor.

Sew on Placer Camera Club Logo Patches

If you haven't purchased your very own **Placer Camera Club Patches** they are still available for just **\$5.00** each. You can call **Jim Cormier at 916-409-5237** or send him a check made out to Square One Graphics and he will mail your patches out to you. The patches are a great way of identifying where you are from when you are out in public on a shoot.

Get yours today while they last. Only 10 left.

I did some checking on 8-inch patches for the back of a jacket.
The costs are: 5 pieces \$33.25 each OR 10 pieces \$21.35 each.
Is anyone interested? Call or e-mail me.



Board Members

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
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| Secretary | Dick Bosworth & Liz Staats |
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Tony Middleton

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Jim Cormier

Annual Awards

Debbie Cabrera

Refreshment Coordinator

Kristi Middleton

Greeters & Badges

Jim Bennett

Visit our website

www.placercameraclub.org

Placer Color Newsletter Editor

Jim Cormier

916-409-5237

jim@squareonegraphics.com

We have a great selection of
Tutorials on our website...

Huey Monitor Calibration

The club has a Huey Monitor Calibration System
for use by the members.

TO CHECK IT OUT

Contact Judy Hooper • 530-888-8308

Members who contributed articles
and photographs for this months
newsletter.

Carol Smith

Mike Schumacher

Bruce Gregory

Ardath Winterwod

Jim White

