



PLACER COLOR

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

This month we have Image Critiques with Truman Holtzclaw. Send your 3 images to placercameraclub@gmail.com. In May we will have Image Critiques with Jeff Burkholder. Jeff is a commercial photographer based in Sacramento.

Saturday May 10th we will have an outing to the Placer Land Trust Big Hill unit. This is an area that is not normally open to the public. More info to follow.

Photographer Ian Plant recently said "If you change your thinking from photographing places or subjects to photographing *moments*, you'll see a dramatic improvement in your work". While this is not a new idea it is something to think about. The topic is too lengthy to discuss here but try looking up photographing moments or henri cartier-bresson (the decisive moment).

Don't forget about our Placer Camera Club Yahoo group. It's for anything photo related. To see the group: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/placercameraclub/conversations/messages>

Kristie Middleton has a *signup sheet* for helping with the *snack service* for the upcoming year.

Don't forget to sign up to bring some goodies or help Kristie. See you April 15th!

Mike Schumacher
President Placer Camera Club



FOR SALE Submitted by Jim Cormier

I am selling my Sigma APO 2X DG Tele-Converter for the Sigma 70-200 mm lens it is a Nikon Mount. I have found that I don't use it nearly as often as I thought I would and want to put the money toward a new lens.

The Tele-Converter is in like new condition. I have the original packaging along with the receipt. It comes with a padded carrying case with zipper top. It was purchased at Action Camera in Roseville on June 17, 2013 for \$354.70 including tax. Asking \$275.00.

Contact me at the next meeting or drop me an [e-mail](#) and I will



SIGMA

FOR SALE Submitted by Mike Schumacher

Free – Digipower battery pack replacement for Canon NB-10L. If you can use this contact Mike Schumacher 530-367-4505 or radioman@sebastiancorp.net



1) **Burst mode's best.**

When birds blink, their second eyelid (called a *nictitating membrane*) opens and closes, which can result in strange looking images. Since an in-focus eye is one wildlife-photography “must,” burst mode ups your chances of capturing keepers. It also helps collect quick action such as birds fighting over carrion, landing, and taking off.

2) **Wary is the word.**

Nobody had to teach raptors about stranger danger—these birds are born nervous! Quick movement catches their eyes the most. In and out lens movement may even give them pause. Act like a statue, staying still as much as possible. Nervous birds will look at you; if one does, FREEZE! If not careful your actions will scatter your subjects—for the rest of the day. Allow raptors to relax after you shoot your landing shots. A raptor on one foot signifies a relaxed bird. A bird stretching its wings might make you think he's relaxed, but not necessarily! If he has sat still for a while the opposite is probably true—he's probably preparing for take-off.

3) **Keep concealed.**

There's a reason we use the phrase “eagle eye” : raptors will see you before you see them (see *tip #2*). Your best bet's to work from a blind. Often a vehicle works well as a blind, especially if you bring your biggest lens and sit extra still for a while after shutting off the engine. Since I'm talking about photographing non-captive birds, plan on staying far away from these subjects.

4) **Stay silent.**

Raptors can hear well. Vertically offset ears located just behind the eyes help hone in on sound location. Some species get extra ear-range from facial disk feather arrangement. Your voice and your shutter—especially non-stop actuation—could cause the birds to leave for the day. If you must talk, keep your voice down. And use short bursts when shooting.

5) **Lookout for landings.**

Focus on where a bird is headed *before* she arrives. Like airplanes, most birds (*including raptors*) take off and land into the wind. Considering when the light's best for photography, an a.m. east wind and a west wind in the afternoon, means you're in luck!

6) **Prepare for lift-off.**

You get some of your best action shots as birds leave. That means you've got to prepare for take-off. Good news! Raptors also prepare for take-off and will give you plenty of signs that they're about to depart. A bird looking *into* the breeze and/or crouching is a bird about to take-off. So, too, is a bird that defecates.



7 Tips for Raptor Photography For Non-Captive Wild Birds

Submitted by Jeff Parker

Continued

7) **Practice patience.**

Patience pays in wildlife photography, especially when shooting raptors. Don't fire away at a perched bird just sitting there. You're creating lots of boring images and running the risk of scaring your subject away with the sound of your shutter. Wait for natural behavior, the kind of show a relaxed bird puts on: stretching, preening, calling, eating. Wait for her to *do* something before taking your shot.

Wildlife photographer, Jeff Parker, leads the naturally curious on photo tours throughout North, South, and Central America. Join him & Explore in Focus™!

Questions about bird photography? Give Jeff a call or send him an email. He'll be happy to help you out!

Click: www.ExploreInFocus.com ~OR~ Call: (512) 378-3355



Alpine Valleys

Submitted by Jim White

We were at the Community Center in the Turtle Rock Campground in Alpine Co. last week celebrating the life and times of Fish and Game Warden Norm Reuther of Alpine County who died last month. Norm was a friend who loved the mountains and valleys of Alpine Co. and tried to spend every day of his life looking at this beauty. Someone said Norm would have loved the weather that day. You see it was raining and snowing outside, and Norm like me, loved a good storm. Norm was a friendly guy with a big smile who would have invited all of you to come up and see the beauty of the Alpine Valleys nearby. Bring your cameras and enjoy the beauty. I will sit in for Norm and tell you where to go.

Norm loved Diamond Valley. Take the road from Woodfords toward Markleeville about a mile and take the first county road to the left. This road will go thru Diamond Valley, past the settlement of Hung-A-Lei-Ti, home of the Southern Band of the Washoe Tribe and end up on highway 88 once again. We have wonderful memories of Diamond Valley. The first ranch house on the right is where my son Randy and I spent a few days many years ago, riding on horseback and exploring this valley. We had the whole ranch to ourselves and a full size pool table in the living room of the ranch house. There was an old fashioned bathtub in the bathroom that my 12 year old son Randy could stretch out full length in and soak after a day of exploring. Snowshoe Thompson had lived just down the street in the



1880's where he had had a huge vegetable garden. He also delivered the mail each winter month on skis from Placerville over Echo Pass to Genoa in Carson Valley nearby. You cannot see it now but near where the cottonwood tree close-up picture in this piece was taken, was where Snowshoe's house used to be and years ago I found some square nails near his root-cellar. Where the Diamond Valley road turns left if you go straight instead on the dirt road, I often find Mountain Lion tracks in the mud near the first gate. You might want to photograph the tall water tank in front of the village. It is covered in Indian paintings of objects of importance to the tribe. Be sure and photograph the West Fork of the Carson River to the west as you descend down the hill to the river and leave Diamond Valley.

Turn right on highway 88 and head down into Carson Valley. Once you cross the state line turn to the right and drive the many roads of the valley looking for old barns, horses, hayfields and memories of the way Carson Valley used to be. Some of the old time ranch houses and barns are still there and most of the time folks are friendly. If you meet an old-timer with wrinkled skin and a sweat soaked felt hat, you know he lived in Norm's world and will welcome you to the beauty of his Alpine Valley. Better yet, wait for a summer thunderstorm with those towering clouds and see the real beauty of Carson Valley, the way Norm liked it.





Photo by Jack Bachelder

Jack & I packed a lunch and jumped in his car and headed out to Virginia City. The weather was just perfect and we managed to snap off some interesting shots. I am including 4 images to give you an idea of what we shot.

Jack & I always have a great time and with Jack when he is behind the wheel you never know where he will take us next.

If the weather holds up who knows where we will heading off to next in search of that one award winning photo.

I always leave the driving to Jack because he really knows his way around the backroads.



Photo by Jack Bachelder

The old car is a 1913 Oakland I and am amazed that it has not been vandalized



Photo by Jim Cormier



Photo by Jim Cormier

A rainy afternoon a few days ago gave me the perfect opportunity to spend time with my camera, my macro lens, and my speed light. I spent several hours photographing water drops. This activity becomes addictive and it is a good thing I am using a digital camera because I took hundreds of shots in the few hours I obsessed over every splash, drop, and crown that appeared in my lens. Of course most of those shots weren't keepers, but I had a great time anticipating the results and I plan to try it again with what I hope will be better photographs. I did get a few decent shots but I am certain they can be improved.

My inspiration was a section in Bryan Peterson's "Understanding Flash Photography" (author of another outstanding book, "Understanding Exposure") about flash recycle time and flash duration. After seeing his example, a gorgeous, multicolored water splash, I knew I had to try my hand at it.

I set up as closely as I could to the example he described. I set a large box in my kitchen sink (I used a wooden crate but I should have used plastic because my wooden crate eventually got soaked). I covered the box with a brightly colored striped dress instead of the Hawaiian shirt he used (it got wet, too, but it was washable). I set a clear 1.5qt. bowl on top of the covered box and adjusted the faucet until it just barely dripped into the bowl.

Bryan Peterson used two speed lights. I didn't have two speed lights so I used one. I attached the light on my Joby Gorilla Pod (I now have a use for it again...I stopped using it when I got a conventional tripod) and attached a TTL remote cord instead of using the wireless commander flash settings. I used my 105mm macro lens, my Nikon D800 on the tripod, and a cable shutter release.

The hardest part of this project was focusing on the correct spot. I used manual focus and used my fingertip directly under the water drop to focus on but it was still a problem. I wanted to be able to get one of the water crowns in focus from front to back and even though they are small, the shallow depth of field of my macro lens, even at a small aperture, prevented me from getting the entire crown in focus. I got so excited about what I was doing that I didn't always wait for the flash to recycle (the article about recycle duration was what got me here in the first place) so many of my shots were very underexposed. I also noticed that I had some shadows, perhaps because I used only one speed light instead of two. I tried repositioning the light but the shadow kept showing up so that's also something I need to figure out. And, when I try this again, I will set the bowl farther from the faucet for more dramatic drops.

Here are a few of my best shots. I indicated my settings for each of the shots. I hope you'll try it. It's fun and, as I said, it's also addictive!



ISO 200, f/20, 1/320



ISO 200, f/22, 1/250



ISO 200, f/14, 1/320



ISO 200, f/11, and 1/250 shutter speed (This is the only decent shot that I got using Bryan Peterson's settings).



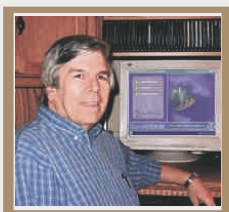
PCC Members Websites

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:

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/
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/
David Howland Potter Photography	http://www.davidhowlandpotter.com/
Marc Kessman	http://www.mellowtoxin.com
Jim & Shirley's Blog	http://www.padhorski.blogspot.com/



From Your Editor.



Hi Placer Camera Club Members

We had a great response for submissions to this months Newsletter. It is a little larger in Actual number of pages as well as file size but we had so much great stuff I didn't want to leave anything out.

If you have any comments or recommendations on how I can improve the PCC Newsletter drop me an [e-mail](#).

Jim Cormier
Your PCC Newsletter Editor

NOTE: When you view this PDF version of the newsletter...under the VIEW Tan/Display choose TWO PAGE VIEW. This will enable you to view facing pages for ease of navigating through the Newsletter.

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 6 left.

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Visit our website

www.placercameraclub.org

Placer Color Newsletter Editor

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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 Mary Nunes • 530-885-9816

Members who contributed articles
and photographs for this months
newsletter.

Mike Schumacher

Jim Cormier

Jack Bachelder

Jeff Parker

Jim White

Carol Smith

