

PLACER COLOR

THE NEWSLETTER THAT FOCUSES ON PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE FOOTHILLS

Volume 50 Number 12 PO Box 4990, Auburn, CA. 95603 December 2012 est.1952

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.

An informal gathering at 6:30 PM is followed by the meeting which starts promptly at 7PM.

The Presidents Corner by Mike Schumacher

This month we will have member slide shows.

Slide shows can be a maximum of 4 minutes long. As many or as few photos as you want. Shows must be a connected theme. Get as fancy or as simple as you want. If you don't have a slide show program just put the images in a folder in the order you want them shown.

Bring your slide show to the meeting on a flash drive or cd. We will also have our Theme image. The Theme is food. It can be cut up vegetables or a cooked meal. Be creative! One image per person and we will discuss them as a group.

Send your one Theme image to

placercameraclub@gmail.com before Dec 18th.

If you have some Christmas cookies or goodies to share bring them to the meeting.

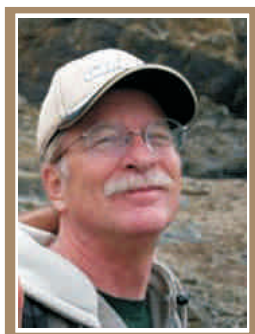
In January we will have Image Evaluations. The judge will be professional photographer Jeff Burkholder.

We are still in need of a club historian. If you are interested contact me.

See you Dec 18th!

Mike Schumacher

President Placer Camera Club



Merry Christmas



Wishing all the Placer Camera Club members a Very Merry Christmas and I look forward to producing another year of outstanding Newsletters with the help of all the PCC members.

Through The Lens Finder

Submitted by Tony Middleton



As the Holidays grow closer many of us are looking to have that new piece of photography equipment or new computer program under our tree on Christmas morning. For me, I find this is the time of year that I normally take inventory of all photography related things I have.

This year instead of looking for a new piece of hardware or an upgrade of an existing processing program I am dusting off some recently unused equipment to refamiliarize myself with my photography kit.

Recently I was in the market for a new camera body but was having a hard time justifying it to my camera budget (yes, I have a camera budget). You see, I am somewhat of a hoarder, once I buy something I have this compulsion to keep it forever. So the plan I came up with was to go through all of my gear and set aside that equipment I could live without or was intending to replace. As I systematically set out and inventoried my equipment I was amazed by the varied point and shoots, super zooms, SLR bodies, tripods, and lenses I had tucked away.

Wow!!! Treasures!!! No, wait... what is the purpose of the plan? I know, reduce the inventory...

After much reflection (*defined as self argument*) I came to the conclusion that I could live with 1 SLR body, a set of 4 lenses with attachments, 2 teleconverters, 1 super zoom, 1 point and shoot, 2 tripods, and enough bags and cases to house all of my loot. This left me with a bunch of equipment to sell. Included in this equipment was my best SLR body which I wanted to replace. By selling this piece it left me with no SLR body until I was able to replace with an upgrade. To make a long story short, I tried all of the online sales outlets, did reasonable research on values, and ended up at the Action Camera Swap Meet in September. I was able to sell all of my excess gear for enough to upgrade to the new SLR body I wanted and found another lens 'I couldn't live without' at the swap meet (*did you actually think I could not find something??*).

Now I am taking entire photo trips with my 'new' kit and relearning the characteristics of my equipment. With the new camera body my old lenses seem to have a new life and with the newly found space in my photo room, I can actually find my equipment when I look for it.

So remember, the new gear you are looking for might already be in your closet. If only you have the courage to go in there after it.

Here is hoping that everyone has a safe and joyous Christmas Season. Whether your gear is old or new, the skies cloudy or bright, have fun and take pleasure in the process. Who knows what treasure you will find when next you look through the viewfinder....

IT'S YOUR CAMERA CLUB



Attend a Placer Camera Club meeting today and take advantage of all the experience the members have to offer. Tell a friend.



Cold Weather Tip.

Submitted by Sue Barthelow.

Want to keep your hands warm during outdoor winter shoots? Get yourself a pair of fingerless gloves. Need protection for your fingers too? Some of these gloves come with a flip-out-of-the-way mitten section. I bought two different pairs at Target a few years ago, one woven and one of a more waterproof cloth. These gloves free your fingers when working with the camera and cover them up afterwards.

From Snowflakes to GigaScapes Maximizing the Creative Power of Today's DSLRs

Presented by George D. Lepp
Submitted by Jim Cormier

The Seminar by George D. Lepp
Was held Sunday, December 2, 2012
Crowne Plaza Sacramento Northeast, 5321 Date Avenue(I-80 at Madison Ave.) Sacramento, Ca.

Short Description: The versatility of today's DSLR has literally revolutionized outdoor photography, and in this program George Lepp offers a survey of the latest, greatest techniques. Whether you're photographing sports, wildlife, close-up, or landscape imagery, the old outdoor challenges of unpredictable lighting and moving subjects are easily overcome in the digital age. But modern photography offers so many more ingenious solutions to the limitations that once vexed film photographers! Computerized accessories and innovative software programs enable virtually unlimited depth of field, expanded tonal range, ultra-high resolution composite landscape panoramas, high-magnification, time-lapse, and HD video capture, all with a single DSLR. These creative tools are easily within reach of outdoor and nature photographers—and commercial and studio photographers as well—who want to expand their photographic repertoires. But you can't apply what you don't know, so listen to George before you start your next project.

This program included:

- Application of expanded ISO capabilities to low-light and moving subjects.
- Capture techniques for unlimited depth of field in landscape and macro photography and assembly using Photoshop CS5,
- Helicon Focus and Zerene Stacker software.
- High Dynamic Range capture and processing techniques to achieve expanded tonal range and clarity for natural results and creative effects.
- How George uses the GigaPan system to capture the ultra-high-resolution composite panoramas that Canon USA displays at trade shows and expositions in sizes up to 5' by 20'.
- Capturing high-magnification images of microscopic subjects using Canon DSLRs' unlimited depth of field techniques.
- Story-telling with time-lapse and video captures, using low-cost capture accessories and simple assembly and editing software.

Members from the Placer Camera Club in attendance were Bruce Gregory, Mike Schomacher, Judy Hooper, Sue Barthelow, Walt Carnahan, Arthur Bell, Dave Keys, Barry Walton and Jim Cormier and Jack Bachelder. Sorry if I missed anyone. One of the door prizes was a Tripod and it was won by Sue Barthelow.

As you know the weather on the Sunday this seminar was held was absolutely horrible. Despite the weather the turn out was great. There were representatives on hand from Cannon and Gary Farber was on hand with lots of items for sale from Hunt's Photo & Video Melrose Massachusetts.

George is mostly a Cannon shooter but the information he shared during the seminar was beneficial to both Cannon and Nikon Shooters alike. The next time George comes to Sacramento to put on another seminar if you can try and take the time to attend.





This was the best Photoshop® Lightroom® training on the planet! The Instructor was Matt Kloskowski, one of the world's top Lightroom experts. He showed us an insider's view of Lightroom. From Start to Finish, from image capture to final print – we saw it unfold right in front of us, we learned step-by-step how to take control of our digital photography workflow. This seminar taught us how to take our photography to an amazing new level of productivity, efficiency, and fun with real world insider techniques that will make our lives as photographers easier, and free our time so you can do what we really want with our photography.

There were a few members from the Placer Camera Club in attendance at the seminar. They were Bruce Gregory, Jack Bachelder, Jim Cormier, I am sorry if I missed anyone.



This is a common request around our house almost every week. Actually I call it "Wildlife-ing" but my computer thinks this is not a word. We not only grab our camera gear, but our binoculars, wildlife I.D. manuals on birds, mammals, and most important, our new manual "ANIMAL TRACKS AND SCAT OF CALIFORNIA". This new 2012 field guide, published by the University of California Press, contains dozens of photographs and illustrations of mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and invertebrate tracks, scats and scent-making behaviors. Yep! If we do not see the animal, we photograph their tracks and scats. That is why we always come home successful. We always find wildlife tracks. We have learned to use our CSI skills to tell from the tracks what animal it was, and what they were up to. Many times we get lucky and get photos of the wildlife too. At times we get some great scenic pictures in these remote locations, some worth showing at camera club.

One of our favorite times to go "wildlife-ing" is after our first significant snowfall in the late fall. The one foot of new powder at six to seven thousand feet in the sierra this November was perfect for wildlife tracking. We often drive into the backcountry on the Texas Hill road south of Emigrant Gap, in Placer Co. The nice thing about this road is it is paved for about ten miles, crosses two rivers and has a wonderful alpine meadow that wildlife use daily. If conditions are right there are many more miles of good dirt roads past this meadow, some with outstanding views down into the North Fork of the American River. Wildlife is common in this area and we sometime see Black Bears, Grey Foxes, Deer, Coyotes, five species of Squirrels, Ringtail Cats, Bobcats and many forest loving birds. Also present but seldom seen are Mountain Lions. A Mountain Lion track is a 12 for us that day. We drive very slowly, with our cameras on our laps, ready to shoot out of the car window. This year we had a Western Grey Fox run down this road ahead of us. After a while he got tired and tried to crawl into a road culvert. He could only get his head and part of his body into the culvert. We got great shots of his butt sticking out of the culvert. Later we saw a really beautiful Black Bear with a touch of orange in his back-lit fur. Beautiful!

We always stop and hike around the edge of Onion Valley which is about six miles in. This is an Alpine meadow that has lots of wildlife use. This year there were deer, fox, coyote, deer mice, Douglas Squirrels and brush- rabbit tracks everywhere. The surface of the snow was covered with thousands of small black spiders all hurrying somewhere. A dry spot along the edge of this meadow in the warm sun was ideal for our picnic while we watched the meadow for animal activity. It is important to look up into the trees here. Grey Foxes often climb up into the crotch of a tree to sleep during the day. I have pictures of both foxes and coyotes up in trees.

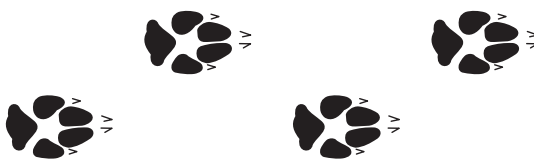
A short drive down the road from here is the bridge over the East Fork of the North Fork of the American River. The snow is always deeper on bridges and there is always heavy animal use around bridges, because bridges often have good populations of Deer Mice. On this bridge we saw where both a Fox and a Coyote had tracked a Deer Mouse. Trying to get good composition of animal tracks in the snow is a challenge.

Wildlifeing is always lots of fun but it is not for everyone. Most of our wildlife shots are never seen in camera club competition. If you want great wildlife pictures, go to a wildlife game farm. That is what most pro-wildlife photographers do. I know since I have a buddy in Alaska that has one of the best for northern wildlife. After all, what kind of score do you think we would get with a picture of a Grey Fox's butt sticking out of a road culvert?

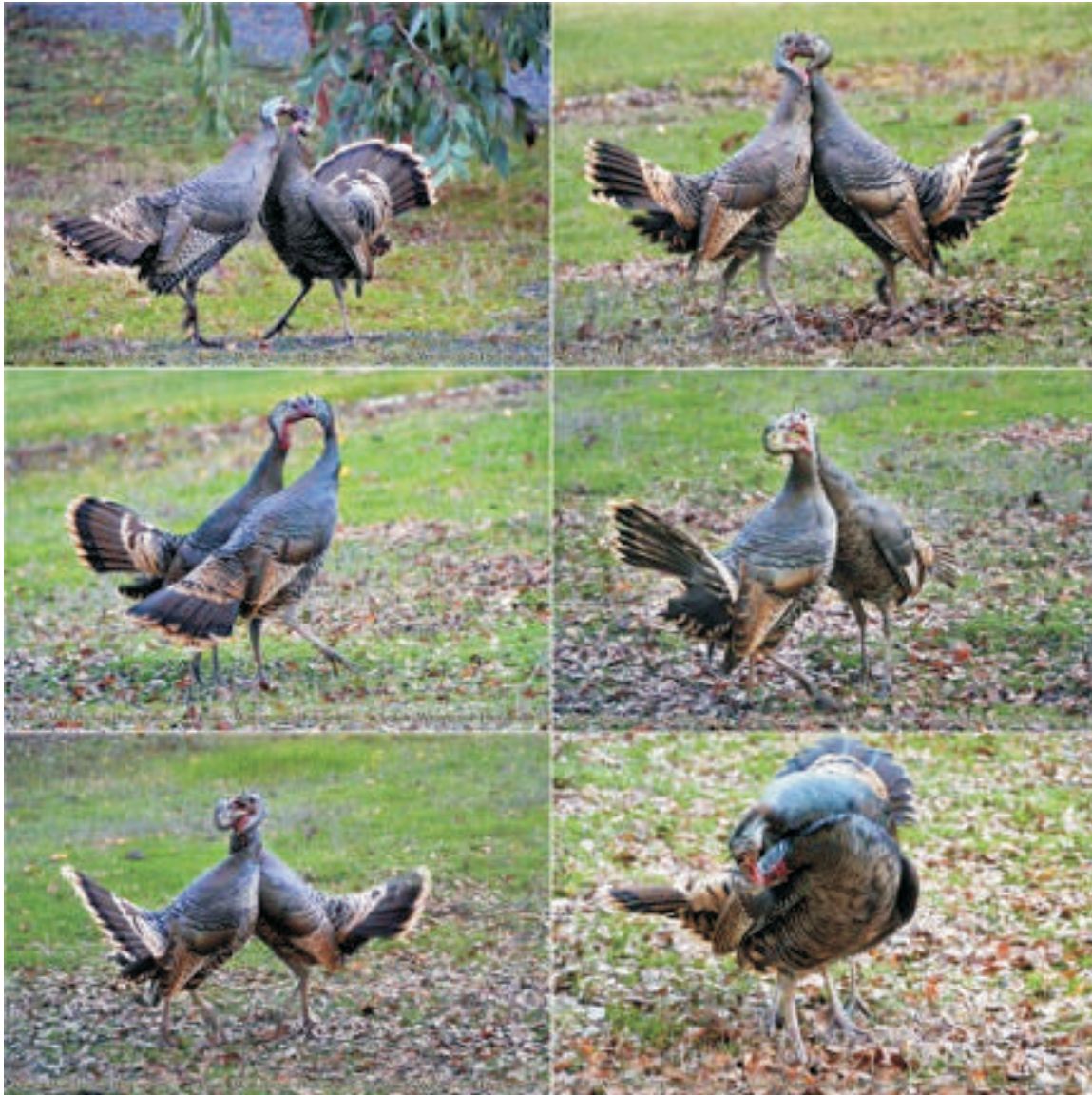




Shirley Photo of Tracks Onion Meadow







I spotted these two young, male turkeys locked in combat at around 3pm on Thanksgiving day. They try and grab one another's beak and then start twisting, trying to break one another's neck. They absolutely will not stop until one of them is dead. I took about 125 shots over a 20-25 minute period and then went back in the house to resume my visit with friends. Around 4:45pm I went back out in the front of my property to see if they were still there...sure enough they were...still locked in combat as the sun was quickly fading...actually, it was way past the time for them to roost, so I know at least one of them didn't survive! I've lived here over 35 years and have never seen anything like this!! I'll continue to add more shots to this album as I get them processed.

View a larger version of these photos on my flickr web site:

<http://flic.kr/p/dyCQmW>

Submitted by Ardath Winterowd

All images are copyrighted by Ardath Winterowd 2012

Capture the California King Tides

Submitted By Sue Barthelow



Greetings!

Please join us for the 3rd Annual California King Tides Photo Initiative this winter. To participate, grab your camera and take photos of coastal areas flooded by high tides this December 12-14th; January 9-11th; and February 7-9th, 2013.

"King tides" are extreme high tide events that occur when the sun and moon's gravitational forces reinforce one another. King tides tend to be more dramatic in the winter when storms cause increased wind and wave activity along the coast. These high water events allow us to visualize now how flooding from rising sea levels will impact our beaches, coastal areas and shoreline communities in the future.

Get Involved!

1. Go to http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001Sv1pFYpA_8KnZEOfRwhaK_2wHLkS0FbcKUZbO6ijo-NMckNFdkrTPD0WjwlhXoMf6cTpOx474DP-aAqeNxjkO28ZCjfRiGmvpHsfQlctUhgHDBxC-_Vt1N45I97MLQ-pvdpPZMq_8BE= and view the tide schedule and find out when the highest tides will occur in your area. Take images of areas that are known to flood and erode and/or areas where the high water levels can be gauged against sea walls, jetties, bridge supports, dikes, buildings or other coastal infrastructure around the state. If possible, take comparison photos of the same area at low tide or during a normal high tide. Remember to be safe! High tides can cause hazardous waves and flooding so please keep your distance from the shoreline as you snap your photos.
2. Load photos to the [California King Tides Flickr group](#). The higher the resolution the better! For additional details, please visit our [Share Your Pictures](#) web page.
3. Follow us on Facebook and [Twitter](#) to stay up to date!
4. Join us! Contact the King Tides organizers to plug your organization, group, school, or company into our efforts and join our list of participants. Email CaKingTides@gmail.com.

About us

The California King Tides Initiative was launched in the winter of 2010/2011 by a partnership of state agencies and non-profit organizations. As a successful pilot effort, the King Tides Initiative created a rich and diverse archive of photographs that highlight the changes in California's shoreline communities and ecosystems.

Local Waterfalls are Flowing

Submitted Jim White



If you want to see lots of waterfalls, now is the time to go. We came thru Yankee Jim's-Bunch Canyon road this afternoon and there are waterfalls everywhere. Canyon Creek is great too.

The sign says the road is closed, coming from Foresthill but there is room for all 4 tires on the road at the same time. Do not stop at the bad spot there is tons of rocks waiting to come down. The road in from Colfax is no problem.



Past Yankee Jim's Waterfall Photos by Jim Cormier

We have an Assigned Subject of Food this month. Many of us may consider a table top photo while thinking about how to fulfill that assignment. In a very timely manner at the Gold Rush Chapter of PSA presentation by George Lepp I got a great suggestion for lighting tabletop photos.

George mentioned that Target Stores carries a clip-on LED light for about \$20.00 each that is good for this purpose. I found 2 of them in amongst the goose-neck desk lamps. They have a "Bright White" bulb color which is somewhat similar to daylight. The clips open to a bit over an inch. I needed a way to clip them securely.

I went out into the garage & picked out a couple of lumber cutoff's, a 2x6 & a 1x4. I mounted the 1x4 perpendicular to the 2x6 making an upside down "T" about 8" long. Using the 1x4 to clip the lamp to & the 2x6 for weight I had no problem with stability regardless of how I twisted the light. (For a little more versatility I think I'll mount a piece of 1x4 vertically from a base to avoid the "s" turn at the bottom of the goose-neck, a bit more efficient.)

My basic set up was to lean a piece of foam-core against some boxes on my kitchen counter and drape a piece of butcher paper over it, turn a mixing bowl upside down in front of the foam-core then extend the butcher paper over the bowl and down the front. What that achieved was to give me a soft corner where the butcher paper went from vertical to horizontal. Lacking the hard curve removes a distance reference & lets the object float in space.

I used the two lights at about a 45 degree angle from each side, a basic even light set-up. You can vary the intensity of the lights by moving them closer or backing them off. The LED's don't get very hot so you can modify the light by tape gels over them or putting a scrim over them, or anything else you can think of to create an effect.

The whole project took only a few hours, and the lights & bases fit in a small box for storage.. next time I want to use them it will go faster. One thing that could improve the project would be a wider roll of paper.. I didn't always avoid the seam between the foam-core & the butcher paper in the background of the photos and it shows..

Bruce Gregory



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://www.suebarthelowimages.com/
Barry Walton	http://tony-and-kristi-middleton.artistwebsites.com/
	http://www.barrywaltonphoto.com/



PCC Dues Are Due for New Year.



Hello everyone.

Sept. is the start of a new year for us and that means that your dues are due.

\$25.00 per member.
\$40.00 per family of 2.

You can pay me at the meeting or mail a check to:

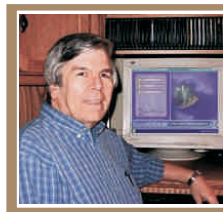
Placer Camera Club
PO Box 4990
Auburn CA 95604

Hope to see you all at our next meeting.

Judy Hooper



Merry Christmas From Your Editor.



Placer Camera Club Members... Things are coming along nicely with my transition to PCC Newsletter editor.

If you have any suggestions on how I can improve the newsletter feel free to pass them on to me by e-mail, phone or at the next meeting.

I have been receiving lots of positive feedback on the newsletter so far so that's a good indication that you are all happy with my progress on the PCC newsletter.

I look forward to your submissions each month to help add interest and excitement to our monthly PCC Newsletter.



Jim Cormier
Your 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 530-637-4700** 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 12 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

President	Mike Schumacher
1st Vice Pres.	Richard Myren
2nd Vice Pres.	Tony Middleton
Secretary	Dick Bosworth & Liz Staats
Treasurer	Judy Hooper

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Webpage & Publicity

Sue Barthelow

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Arthur Bell

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Judge Selection

Bruce Gregory

Mike Schumacher

Image Evaluation Data

Judy Hooper

Tony Middleton

Placer Color Newsletter Editor

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

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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.

Mike Schumacher
Jim Cormier
Jim & Shirley White
Tony Middleton
Ardeth Winterowd
Sue Barthelow
Bruce Gregory

