



placer color



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Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club

June 2007

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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, **June 19, 2007**. Informal gathering at **6:30** with the meeting starting **promptly at 7 PM**.

This month we have a full agenda for our meeting. First off we will have an election for club officers. Then we have the presentation of the annual awards along with the winning photos. Then we will have a presentation by Richard Myren on macro photography. The following is a short blurb by Richard.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Have you ever felt drawn to the world of mini landscapes? Been curious about what goes on inside a single flower? Wondered what its like to look at a low-lying bloom from a worms eye view?

Even if none of these thoughts have ever gnawed at you, join in this month's meeting for a "How To" presentation and discussion about both close-up and macro photography. We'll look at some example photos of each, along with the equipment and techniques employed to record those images. We'll talk technical jargon as well as artistic jabberwocky. We'll share past experiences... and prepare for future ones.

Richard Myren will be boldly stepping out of his little world to moderate this mini-workshop not because he is any sort of authority on this micro subject but simply because he enjoys it so much. (He hopes to learn a thing or three himself.) We can't cover it all but we'll pique our interest in this tiny aspect of photography.

It's a great small world out there, let's explore a little bit of it together.

Mohave Desert Birding

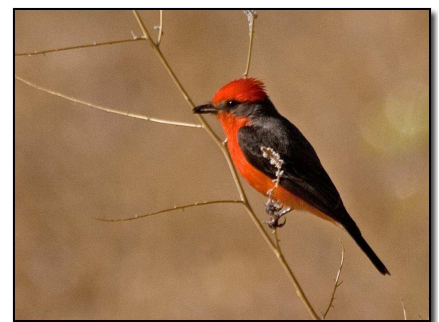
Text & Photos by Walt Carnahan

The Mohave Desert oases of Galileo Hill and Butterbrecht Springs are some birding hotspots and great locations for desert photography. Galileo Hill is located just outside of California City. On weekends it's a middle class resort and ranch called the Silver Saddle filled with families from southern California enjoying a retreat. But during the week it's empty except for birds and birders. The oasis feeds a series of ponds and streams surrounded by native landscape and artifacts from the past.



Butterbrecht Springs, fenced and maintained by the Malibu Audubon Society, is a more normal desert oasis located just west of Red Rock State park in a small canyon in the El Paso Mountains. It is just an acre or so of cottonwoods and cattails surviving on a small spring. Both of these desert oases, perfect layovers for migrating birds, are known to birders as "migrant traps."

We took the eight-hour western route down route 99 through Bakersfield then east along route 38 to California City. Staying at the Silver Saddle we had great looks there at a variety of warblers, Wilson's, Townsend's, MacGillivray's, Yellow and Hermit, Swainson's thrushes and an Ovenbird, along with Willow, Western, Pacific-Slope and the spectacular Vermillion flycatchers. A young Scott's Oriole fed on a yellow cactus blossom long enough to get some



pictures.

The camera equipment and photographers in these areas was not quite as spectacular as the birds. I got to trail along behind Peter, “the best bird photographer in California” LaTourette (<http://www.birdphotography.com>) as we chased a MacGillivray’s warbler with his Canon 500mm f4. Ryan Terrill, one of the fine young birders, had a Canon 70-300mm f5.6 at Butterbrecht springs. The highlight was an unknown photographer sitting in the desert covered by camouflage with just the business end of a Canon 600mm showing.

Route 395 along the eastern slope of the Sierras was a great, though slightly longer, way to return. Clouds began to form over the Owens Valley adding nice contrast to the pictures. Regretfully, we missed the bristlecone pines on the White Mountains outside of Big Pine. We did get some good looks at Convict and Mono Lakes. The violet-green swallows and Wilson’s Phalaropes were breeding at the county park on the north shore of Mono.



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Wanted... Tony Middleton is looking for a set of **tripod legs**. Each leg should have independent movement and low to the ground capable.
Contact him at 530-346-8665

Wanted... Richard Myren is in the market for a **Nikon AF 200mm f/4 ED-IF Micro-Nikkor** lens. Glass & interior must be scratch & dust/fungus free and all functions intact.

Also wanted is **Agfa Scala** b+w slide film. Slightly past expiration ok.

He is also looking for a Nikon AR-7 Double **Cable Release**.

He can be contacted at rgik@earthlink.net or (530) 320-8961.

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Shooting Helicopters (with a camera!)

Text & Photos by Wes Schultz



The first of May I was invited to shoot a training exercise Cal Fire (CDF) has with the California National Guard and their helicopter crews. They practice water drops for the up coming fire season. Of course they do this right in the middle of the day when the sun is at its worst - between 10 AM and around 3 PM. As you know, if you shoot an aircraft at too fast a shutter speed the camera stops the rotor/propeller and they look like the engine has stopped. Too slow and the blur makes the blades all but

disappear and you wonder what is propelling them. The blades spin at different speeds for the type of aircraft - ya think? When I am shooting a fixed wing like the Cal Fire S2's coming at me, I set the shutter at around 1/300 to 1/350 and get a nice blur. The medium helicopter at 1/200 and the really big boys under 1/200.



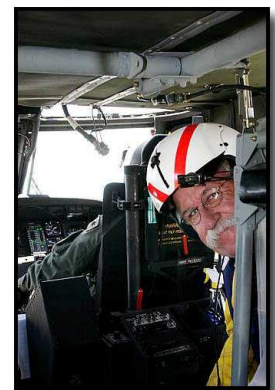
set



Now at these slow shutter speeds there are several things going on. When shooting with a long lens, 300 to 600mm, even on a monopod, there is going to be camera shake; so, I shoot a series of say 10 to 20 images of each action - if I can. I can almost bet on at least one will be tack sharp. The only difference between an armature and pro is the size of their wastebasket. The other thing going on is with these slow shutter speeds in the bright sun, the lens shuts way down throwing everything into focus including every dust spec on the sensor! The healing tool is a

god send. You can clean your camera until the cows come home and you will have dust. But it is fun. One of the ways I practiced was to go out to the local air port and just experiment and see what works. You might want to let someone know you are there and what you are doing along with a safety review - just a thought. Auburn and Grassvalley have really nice airports to do that at, take a lunch....

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FOR SALE

Canon Power Shot G5 5meg Digital Camera w/battery & 512mg CF card, manual,case and strap.

This camera has swivel LCD viewing screen. Great for low angle shots.
Cost \$679. Sell \$499!

Canon **wide angle converter** lens(WC-DC58N, 58mm) for above camera(WC-DC58N, 58mm) and G3&G6 digital cameras \$100.

Teleconverter lens (TC-DC58N) 58mm 1.75x for above camera and A610, A620, G3,&G6 cameras.\$75.00

LA-DC58B lens adapter for the above lenses. Free with purchase of above equipment. .

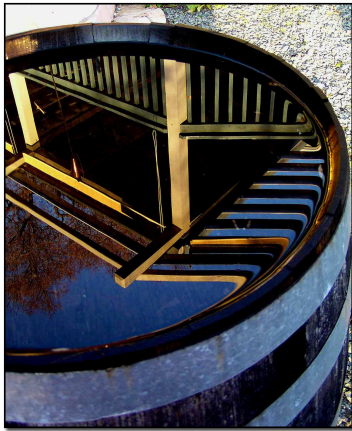
Brand New **Telephoto Lens** for Sale. Quantaray 600-1000mm F9.9 to F16 Super Telephoto Zoom Lens, with case and in the box, brand new. Use T mount adapter to fit your camera. Comes with T mount for Nikon cameras. When used on certain Canon cameras, camera light meter will work. Nikon light meters will not work with this lens. Use in manual mode only on Nikon cameras.

A lens like this lens is used by Tom Myers of Tom Myers Photography, Sacramento for professional wildlife photography using his Canon camera. Tom does wonderfull work with his lens. Call him at 916-443-8886 and ask about this 1000mm lens and have him send you a picture taken with this lens. \$200.
Contact: Jim L White 530-885-8511 or E mail at padhorski@infostations.net.



How to Remove a Distracting Background

Text & Photos by Sue Barthelow



My barrel reflection photo required some work to get it in prime shape. The picture's background complicated the image and distracted from the main subject of the reflection. I knew that some manipulation was necessary to turn it into a winner.

Working on a copy of the original image using Photoshop Elements, I first cleaned up the barrel and reflection. Then, I removed the background and replaced it with a complimentary color using the Gradient tool and a texture filter. Here's how I did it.

Removing the Background

Since Photoshop Elements wouldn't let me remove part of the image in a layer, I deleted the picture's background from the Background layer. The program provides several tools for selecting a portion of an image. Had my background not contained many color and shade differences, I would have used the Magic Wand tool. The Lasso tool worked well this time.

1. Zoom in on the image by selecting View from the Menu bar and clicking on Actual Pixels. You can zoom in closer if you need to.
2. Select the Lasso tool by clicking on it in the Toolbox.
3. Capture a section of the background with the lasso.
4. Delete the section by selecting Edit from the Menu bar and clicking on Clear.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 as necessary until all of the background has been removed.
6. Resize the image to a workable size by selecting View from the Menu bar and clicking on Fit on Screen.

This action turned each selected area to a checkerboard pattern, which indicated that there was nothing in that area. I repeated the process as many times as I needed. If you have good manual dexterity, you can select a large area each time.

Adding the Background Color

I dropped in the background color using the Gradient tool in a new layer. Before I started, I chose foreground and background colors that complimented the barrel image. I made the foreground color the darker one and set the background color to a lighter version of the foreground color.

1. Create a new layer by selecting Layer from the Menu bar and clicking on New and Layer.
2. Select colors by clicking on the foreground/background color blocks at the bottom of the Toolbox.
3. Select the Gradient tool by clicking on it in the Toolbox.
4. Set the gradient by clicking on Edit in the Options bar to get to the Gradient Editor's window.
5. Adjust the handles on the color bar until they approximate the desired effect.
6. Close the Gradient Editor's window by clicking on OK.
7. On the new layer, press and hold the left mouse button down on the image, pull the cursor to another spot and release the mouse button to lay down the color pattern.

For my picture, I started the gradient near the top left edge and ended it near the bottom right edge so it would correspond with the coloration of the barrel image. This laid down a color pattern that went from light at the upper left corner to dark at the bottom right corner.

Adding the Background Texture

I added texture to the background gradient to give it a bit of depth and complexity. The texture provided contrast with the flatness of the objects in the reflection.

1. Select Filter from the Menu bar and click on Texture and Texturizer to get the Texturizer window.

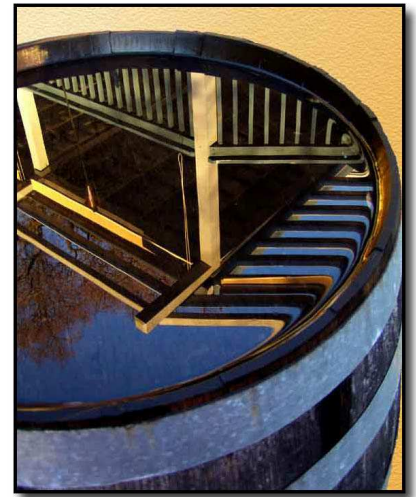
2. Select a texture from the Texture pulldown menu and then adjust the Scaling and Relief to get the desired pattern.
3. Close the Texturizer window and lay down the texture by clicking on OK.

I selected Burlap for my texture since it worked well with the barrel and reflection.

Bringing it Together

The screen image showed only the color gradient now since the new layer was on top of the Background layer. Photoshop Elements does not allow me to move the Background layer from the bottom of the layer list. To position the color image below the barrel image, I had to convert the Background layer to a layer.

1. Click on Layers in the Pallet well.
2. Double-click on the Background layer to get the New Layer window.
3. Complete the conversion by naming the layer if desired and clicking on OK.
4. Bring the image forward by selecting Layer from the Menu bar followed by Arrange and Bring to Front.



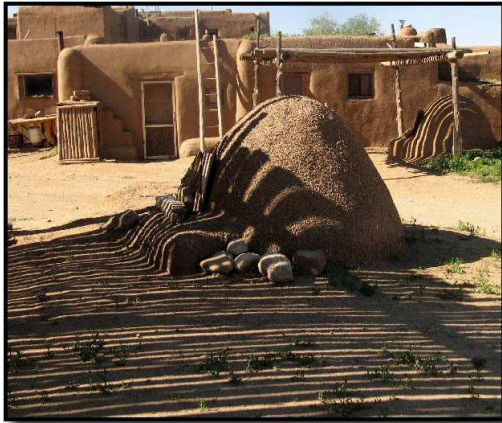
After this final action, the image was complete and ready to save.

Disclaimer: I have an old copy of Photoshop Elements - version 2. Newer versions will have the same capabilities but may offer them using different names. Photoshop Elements is a paired down version of Photoshop. The tools I used are also available in Photoshop.

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Taos Pueblo

Text & Photos by Karen Wyatt

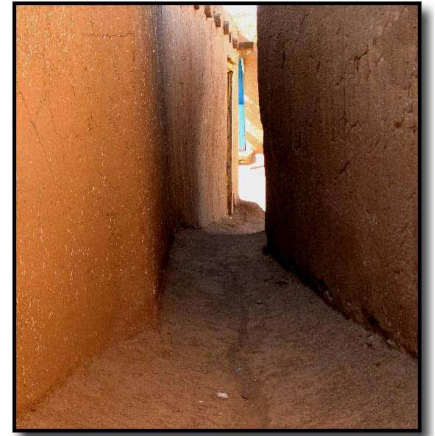


Judy and I took a trip to New Mexico, traveling from Albuquerque to Santa Fe to Taos and then back to Albuquerque. The attached photos were taken at Taos Pueblo, still inhabited by Indian families.

We lucked out with the weather and

crowds (lack of), but missed those wonderful sunsets the area is so well known for!

- Karen



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If you want to sell or are looking for photography related items you 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

Photo Notes for Trip Planning

By Bruce Gregory

I just returned from a trip to Southern Utah. We were in the Scenic Byway Highway 12 area near Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park.. While there I noticed some extensive areas of Aspens in the the surrounding mountains. We took the "Hell's Backbone" drive between Escalante and Boulder up on the Aquarius Plateau. The road goes through a mountainside of Aspens.

On the way out of the area we took Midway Pass on Hwy 14 to Cedar City. It climbs to almost 10,000 feet with expansive views and then drops down into Cedar Canyon with what look like 800-1000' limestone walls looming overhead. There's also a mountainside of Aspen as you approach the canyon from the east. Both these areas are in units of Dixie National Forest. I e-mailed them asking when the Aspens usually peak.

They commented their trees are some of the few in Utah that turn orange due to soil conditions, and that they usually start in late Sept, and are best in October. They recommended Midway Pass area, and the Highway that leaves Hwy 14 to Cedar Breaks Nat'l Monument (Ut 148). In the Escalante area Hell's Backbone and Boulder Mountain. (There's a large Visitors Center in Escalante which should have info on that area.)

As the colors start to change they link them to their website as "Recreational Activities". They also sent the below link of previous year's aspen photos..

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/about/photos/fall.shtml>

We also visited Great Basin National Park in Nevada south of Ely. They're an alpine park that climbs up the side of 13,000' Wheeler Peak. The road that climbs to the upper campground goes slightly over 10,000'. They say their colors start as early as early Sept, but October is the usual time. They guarantee the road to the top is open through Labor Day, but due to staffing and weather it may be closed by October, but usually is still open when the aspens change. There's a large grove at the top with road access.. Call ahead for changing color and road info.

These are a couple of suggestions for some fall color with a little different twist from the Eastern Sierra.. Happy Hunting..

Bruce

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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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Internet Web Sites of Interest

http://www.placercameraclub.org	Placer Camera Club Webpage
http://www.jumbogiant.com	Palco - Large Prints in Auburn
http://www.luminous-landscape.com	Photography Info
http://www.luminous-landscape.com/forum/	Photo Forums - questions & answers

→ *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 June 19th at 7:00 PM!

