



Placer Color



Volume 46 Number 9

Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club November 2008

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<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

Member Delta Council,

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!**

Coming Events

Nov 18

Monthly meeting.
Print image evaluations.
Assigned theme is
'architecture'.

Dec 15

Our photos will be hung in the
Beacher Room at the library.

Dec 16

Monthly meeting.
Member photo show.
Christmas cookie exchange.

Jan 20

Monthly meeting. Projected
image evaluations. Assigned
theme is 'squares or diagonals'.

Feb 17

Monthly meeting. Print image
evaluations. Assigned theme is
'still life'.

This month's meeting will be Tuesday **Nov 18th**. Informal gathering at **6:30** with the meeting starting **promptly** at **7 PM**.

This month we will have our print image evaluations. Our judge will be Tal Lewis.

Membership dues are due. You cannot enter the evaluations unless dues are paid.

It's \$25 individual, \$40 for couples & \$15 for students.

See **Judy Hooper** at the meeting or mail your payment to:

Placer Camera Club

POB 4990

Auburn, Ca 95603



A Trip Along I 395 on the Eastern Sierra

Text and Photos by Mike Schumacher

Recently a few members of the club took a trip along I 395 to the Bodie and Mono Lake area. Members who went were Richard Myren, Judy Hooper, Karen Wyatt, Tony Middleton, Bill Stenwick and myself.

I 395 is a very scenic road that has many ooh and ahh moments. The geography of the land is truly amazing. Mountains that rise rapidly within a few miles. Giant boulders tossed about. Trees growing out of piles of giant boulders.



Day 1 found us in Lundy Canyon looking for beaver dams and fall color. Later we went to Mono Lake's Black Point for sunset. It was also the night before a full moon and I was trying to get some nice moon shots over the lake. Mono Lake is home to giant tufa columns. Basically these are mineral deposits that form under water over long periods of time. Since Mono Lake is lower now than in the past the tufa's have been exposed. It truly looks like an alien landscape.

The sunset was very nice with black birds flying patterns over the lake during sunset. Getting them in a photo was just sheer luck! The moon came up large and bright over black point. Not too bright to get some photos. It came up before sunset so the light difference was not as great as on the night of a full moon. A boardwalk leads out to the water in this area now. I figure they are trying to restore the native plants.

Day 2 found us at South Tufa on Mono Lake for sunrise. When we got there 45 minutes before sunrise there were very few other people there. By sunrise there were at least 2 dozen other photographers and their tripods. South Tufa is home to many tufas. You can walk right up to them and touch them unlike the area at Black Point.



We arrived in the area on Monday. The Saturday before there was a snowfall so the surrounding mountains had a light dusting of snow to give photos more depth and character.

The sunrise was very nice. Translucent colors that turned golden for a few minutes after sunrise. While not a spectacular sunrise it was special because of the location and the surrounding mountains.

After sunrise and breakfast at Nicely's restaurant in Lee Vining the group headed up to the ghost town of Bodie. Bodie is located 30 miles north east of Lee Vining and 15 miles off of I 395. The last 3 miles of the road are not paved. Bodie is located at over 8300 ft so they do very harsh winters. Bodie was in it's heyday in 1879-1880. Millions of dollars in gold were taken out of the mines in Bodie. Bodie is a state park and is kept in a state of arrested decay. There are over 150 buildings there (in 1879 the population was over 10,000) and

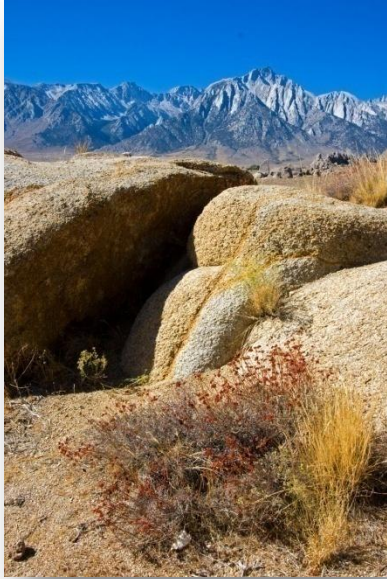


many are furnished as they were back in the day. It is very easy to spend the day in Bodie exploring and taking photos.

For sunset that evening Richard Myren knew of a road with an old building at the foot of the White mountains. We headed out east 120 and found the road, 1n13, a 3 mile dirt road. The area is flat with sagebrush and rabbit bush. The old building was either a stage stop or a pony express building. It sits at the foot of a small hill of boulders. Around the



corner is a stone corral and across the way is a natural spring. Indians would sit on the hill and carve obsidian arrow heads waiting for game to come drink at the spring. If you look around the boulders on the hill you can still find obsidian flakes. The sunset was just so-so but again it was special because of the area.



Day 3 found Richard, Judy, Karen and Bill headed back to Monitor Pass and Hope Valley to check out the fall color.

Tony Middleton and I decided to head south on 1 395 to Death Valley.

We found ourselves in the Alabama Hills later that morning. The Alabama Hills is where they shoot those movies that have the large boulders that look like they are thrown about. It is very interesting geologically. Mount Whitney is nearby. Thanks to Richard Myren for pointing out a poster of Mount Whitney in Lee Vining. I Wouldn't have identified it otherwise! We spent a couple of hours in the Alabama Hills with a vow to return with more time to spend.

We arrived at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley that afternoon. We explored Mosaic Canyon, the Devils

Cornfield and the Sand Dunes. We only had one night to spend in Death Valley and it just wetted my appetite for more. Death Valley is a land of stark contrasts. What looks like a barren wasteland is really teeming with life if you look closely.

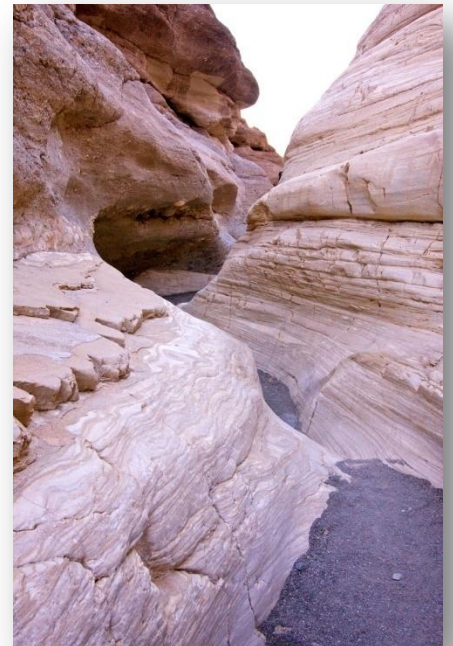
I will be going back in the spring for a week for a more detailed look.

Day 4 found Tony and I headed back to Bridgport , with a side trip to Virginia Lakes, to be in good position for Friday and fall color.

Day 5 we headed over Monitor Pass to Hope Valley to check out the fall color. Fall color was not exceptional when we were there but we did see some Basque carvings in the Aspens at Monitor Pass.

All in all it was a great trip. I'll be spending a lot more time exploring I 395. There is much, much more to see than what we saw and what I've written about here.

If you ever have a chance to visit the Eastern Sierra and I 395 do it!



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Street Market Color

Text and Photos by Sue Barthelow

Color attracts attention. It seems to call out “Look at me”. Use a color spot to add interest to your photo. Or, let color be your subject as I did on my recent trip to



southern France. The places I found that had the most vibrant colors were the street markets. The one in Aix-en-Provence was so colorful that I had trouble keeping up with my group. I wanted to capture it all forever with my camera. I certainly tried, and at times I tried the group's patience. Next time I'm ditching the group.



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Traveling with a Monopod

Text and Photo by Sue Barthelow

Most photographers use a tripod to ensure that their images are sharp. However, traveling with a tripod can be difficult. A tripod is heavy and takes up a lot of space. It's cumbersome to carry around all day and is always in the way. To make matters worse, many attractions are too crowded to use a tripod safely or have regulations against using one. If you're a professional travel photographer, keep that tripod with you. Otherwise, consider taking a monopod.

A monopod is a one-legged tripod. It provides a somewhat stable platform and usually comes with a ball head. Use it with an extra quick release plate so you can attach and detach your camera with ease. Most monopods are built to hold only the weight of your camera. However, you can find ones that also serve as walking sticks – a bit heavier, but a great bonus feature.



Learning to use a monopod takes a bit of practice. The monopod stabilizes vertical movement; you control horizontal movement. Find out what works for you. Try using your body to help stabilize the horizontal movement. Lean into the camera, lock your elbows to your waist and touch the camera to your head. This lets body and legs become the missing two legs to form a tripod. Additionally, you'll want to turn your lens' image stabilizer (VR or IS) switch off if it has one. A picture taken using a monopod will be sharper when that feature is off.

Things to consider when you buy a monopod – collapsed length so it fits in your suitcase, weight, horizontal strength, ease of use, quality of the leg locks, ball head's camera-holding strength and potential use as a walking stick.

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Through the Viewfinder

Text & Photo by Tony Middleton

Happy November to all!

What with the change of weather and the holidays fast approaching we are hitting full stride in the current camera club season. This month there are the print image evaluations and in December our annual Christmas party.

This month I want to talk a little about the club field trips that we organize for the benefit of all who are interested. In October 6 PCC members took off and went to the Eastern slope of the Sierras. On the trip were Judy H., Karen W., Bill, Richard M., Mike S., and myself. We spent time in Bodie, in and around Mono Lake, and various other local locations. Thanks to their experience in the area Judy H. and Richard were our guides.

We got many great photographic opportunities and many great chances to learn from one another in different shooting situations and temperatures. We took our opportunities as they came as we didn't really have time for second chances. Attached is a picture of the aspens in Lundy Canyon, just outside of Lee Vining.

The picture is a touch out of focus, which is why I chose this particular subject. This photo was taken hand held after a cross-terrain hike of a few hundred yards. Normally this would not be an issue, but at higher elevations (over 6000') what I am used to doing around here becomes a little more laborious. My hands were shaking and my breathing was a little labored. One of two things would have improved this shot. One was time, which was quickly fading. It was late afternoon and the light was changing in the trees very rapidly. The second would have been to use a tripod. Not being prepared for the effect the altitude would have on me physically I didn't pack my tripod along during this particular episode. A mistake I did not make again during the trip.



Lessons learned...

1. Not everywhere is like home. Be prepared for the physical challenges that await you on your next outing. Shooting at altitude adds many challenges with temperature and physical effect to name a few.
2. When unsure of what you will need equipment wise, bring all you may need. By having my tripod along on this shot would have produced a 'keeper' not an example of what not to do.

For all of you who missed the trip, we wish you were there. From me to all who made the journey, thank you! The time spent with each of you provided a new insight to what I will see now and in the future, through the viewfinder.

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FOR SALE

TOKINA AT-X 340 AFII SD APO LENS FOR NIKON

This is the hard-to-find, highest quality, AT-X “gold ring” version of the Tokina 100-300mm f/4, Auto-Focus II, Nikon mount zoom lens in very near-mint condition. I acquired this lens from a professional who took meticulous care of it and I have continued that effort. All lens operations are perfect while both the glass and aperture blades are flawless. It's a beauty!

Primary features include:

- The versatile 100-300mm focal range is perfect for portraits and telephoto close-ups as well as compressed/extracted scenics and bringing in distant subjects at the long end.
- The AFII system is quicker and quieter than its predecessor.
- The lens utilizes special low-dispersion (SD) glass to reduce flare and hazing.
- This is an apochromatic (APO) lens for clean colors and crisp focus.
- The maximum f/4 f-stop remains constant throughout the zoom range providing excellent speed. No slowing at the longer focal lengths like so many other zooms.
- The lens utilizes internal focusing so the front element does *not* rotate. Adjustable filters (polarizer, graduated/split neutral density, etc.) stay the way you set them.
- Internal zooming is incorporated as well so the lens does *not* change physical length (and thus center of gravity) as you run up & down through the focal lengths.
- With the built-in, smooth as silk, tripod collar this lens changes quickly and solidly from horizontal to vertical framing orientation and back without moving your tripod head or upsetting your tripod/head balance. Detents tell you when you've rotated exactly 90°.
- Rock solid construction. It just “feels” right.

The lens comes complete with:

- Original front and rear caps.
- Original MH-774 all-metal hood. This hood can be screwed into a mounted polarizer filter and rotated to adjust the polarization while still shading the front of the lens as well as protecting it. Very convenient.
- Original unused Tokina custom fitted case with unopened strap.
- Original unopened lens strap.
- Original box and packing material, (even the original silica packs).
- Bonus: Promaster 77mm, Digital, Multi-Coated, UV filter & case.

I'm looking to get \$350 for the entire package. (One of the few I've seen on eBay recently sold for \$400 with 16 bidders. I'd prefer to get this into the hands of a fellow Auburn/Sacramento area photographer, so eBay can wait.)

One more thing to consider: Coupled with your DX-format, Nikon (or Fuji) digital camera, this lens becomes a **150-450mm constant f/4** zoom! That's even more impressive reach & speed.

Please contact Richard Myren at 530-268-3475 or rgjk@suddenlink.net.

I'll be bringing the lens to the next few Placer Camera Club meetings (Nov. 18, Dec. 16, etc.) so please feel free to bring your Nikon camera body and give the lens a spin.



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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.

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

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Placer Camera Club Webpage

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

<http://placercameraclub.org>

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