

placer color

Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club



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<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

Placer Camera Club meets the third Tuesday of each month, except 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 **Nov 17th**. Informal gathering at **6:30** with the meeting starting **promptly** at **7 PM**.

This month.....

We have print **image evaluations**. The judge will be **Truman Holtzclaw**. The number of entries has changed, it's now 6 per member for prints.

The **December Theme** will be **Portals**. 2 entries per person with a group discussion on each led by Richard Myren. Projected entries only, slides or digital.

Starting in **December** the **club** will be **displaying images** in the Beacher room at the library for 6 weeks. Each member can hang one image up to 16 inches wide. Images must have wire on the back and be ready to hang. They can be framed, on gator board, canvas gallery wrap, etc. Bring your finished work to the December meeting. They must be presentable and ready to hang.

At the **December** meeting we would like to have members present a short **slide show**. Put together a very short show of no more than 20 images or so and a time length of no more than 5 to 8 minutes. The subject can be anything you want but the show should have a theme. Narration is optional, you can have music or silence with your images.

In addition the December meeting is our annual cookie exchange.

Event Calendar

November 17
Monthly meeting
Print evaluations

December 15
Monthly meeting
Christmas cookie
exchange
Member Slide shows
Theme is Portals

January 19
Monthly meeting
Projected image
evaluations

February 16
Monthly Meeting
Print image evaluations

*See last page for club
officers & committees*



Snapshots

by Sue Barthelow

At the October meeting, our guest judge commented that several of the evaluated photos were snapshots. Those of you who are new to the artistic elements of photography may be wondering what the difference is between a snapshot and a photo that people ooh and ah over. Maybe this will help.

What is a snapshot?

A snapshot is a photo that was taken spontaneously without much thought given to composition or image quality. This type of photo probably includes too much “stuff” that interferes visually with the main subject. Or, maybe there is no main subject, and it leaves the viewer

wondering what the photo is about. A photo may also be considered a snapshot if it has one or more major flaws – it isn’t in focus; it has glare; it has distracting elements; it is too dark and/or too light.

How can you turn a snapshot into a keeper?

- Decide what your subject is. Why did you take the photo? What attracted you enough to make you put your camera to your face and press the shutter button? See if you can crop the photo to make your subject stand out.
- Remove distracting elements from your photo. Try to crop it so those elements are no longer seen. If you’re good with your photo software, use it to remove distracting elements; you can submit an edited photo into the Open category.
- Place your subject in a visually pleasing location in the photo. Imagine a tic-tac-toe grid over your photo and see if you can crop to place your subject on or near the spot where any two grid lines cross.
- Use your photo software. See if you can adjust the light and dark areas to improve the range of light in your photo. Consider boosting the color or contrast a bit if your image is too dull. Sharpen it. Due to the basic nature of digital cameras, most digital photos improve with a little sharpening.

How can you take better photos?

- Read the various tutorials on the club website <http://www.placercameraclub.org/tutorials>
- Study the rules of composition and think about them before you use your camera. If you don’t want to buy or borrow a book, look to your local public library for books on photography.



- Move around your subject to find the angle that shows the subject off the best. You may be able to find a position to shoot from that keeps distracting elements out of the photo.
- Feature your subject by making it the most important element in the photo. Many people take photos in which their subject is too small and gets lost amongst the visual clutter in the scene. Your subject is important; let it stand out.
- Get higher or lower to see if you can improve on your shot. See what happens if you get above or below your subject.
- Hold your camera still or use a tripod. A new camera may force you to use muscles in a new way. Sometimes it takes practice with your camera before you start holding it steady. Think about squeezing your shutter button smoothly rather than suddenly pressing it.
- Learn to use your camera's settings. Decide for yourself what your aperture or shutter speed should be for each shot. If your camera lets you set the white balance or ISO, be sure that you pay attention to those settings.
- View professional photo galleries on the internet or in books to see what others do. Think about what you like or dislike about the photos you find. Every photographer has a personal style. You don't have to like all of the styles you see, but it helps to consider why you feel the way you do about various styles.
- Look at your photos as other people do. See what you like about your photo. See what you dislike about that same photo. Decide if you could have taken a better photo and what you would have done to make it better. Learn to be critical of yourself.
- Go on a photo shoot with a better photographer and watch what they do. Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Lastly, practice, practice, practice. The more photos you take, the better you'll get. It doesn't hurt if you try to duplicate professional photos that you've seen. Learn what techniques work for you.



What can you learn from the example photos?

The example photos show how you can improve a snapshot. Although not the most interesting of images, these photos give you a few ideas of how you can turn a snapshot into an image that you're more likely to keep. Notice how each of the photos improves by cropping out the clutter and balancing the light and dark areas a bit.

Try some of the changes listed above on one of your photos to see how you can improve it with a little help from your software. Pick a subject and take a series of photos from different angles and distances. Vary your camera settings. Afterwards, compare those photos and see what you like and dislike.

And above all, remember to have fun and to practice, practice and then practice some more.

On the Road

By Bill Stenwick



In early October, Corina and I made a 12 day trip to Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico, where we had never been.

We flew to Denver and rented a car. We arrived in the late afternoon and drove to Pueblo for the night. The next morning we drove over Raton Pass and then west to Taos, NM.

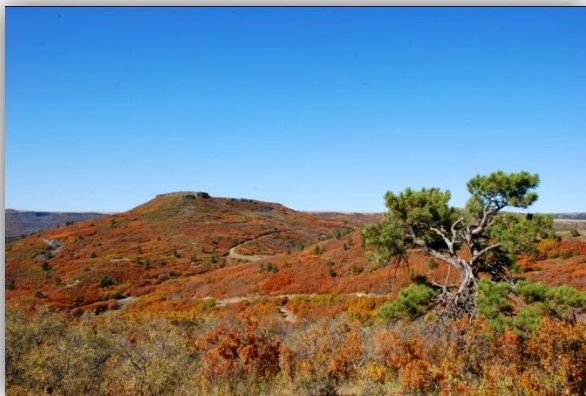
We saw
the Taos
Pueblo
and the

Earthships sustainable housing project and the Rio Grande Bridge at Taos.

Next we did Santa Fe where we visited the central area which was part of the old Santa Fe Trail and did some hiking through the Cliff Dwellings at Bandelier National Monument and in the hills above Santa Fe.



We then drove north to Great Sand Dunes National Park for three days, then East over La Veta Pass and Raton Pass again to see Capulin Volcano National Monument. After that we headed East to see Bent's Old Fort National Monument. It is completely restored just like going back into the 1840s.



After spending a full day in down town Denver we came back home.

On the way over la Veta and Raton Passes we encountered the most spectacular fall colors I have ever seen. Attached are three photos. The first two on La Veta Pass, and the last near Raton Pass.

Bill

Notes from the Field

by Ardath Winterowd



Here's two photos of many that I took on our camera club's two shoots to Nevada City and Grass Valley in October: "Fall Canopy" was taken in Nevada City, and then "Life Out There!", was taken at the North Star House in Grass Valley on our club camera shoot a week later. I will be adding more photos of the two shoots on my Flickr photostream for those who might be interested:



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ardathsartisticenterprises/> Click on "Fall Colors" set to the top right of the page.

As always, all comments/critiques/pointers are welcome.

Cheers,

Ardath



For Sale:

Epson Stylus Photo 1280 13 inch, wide format inkjet photo printer. \$50

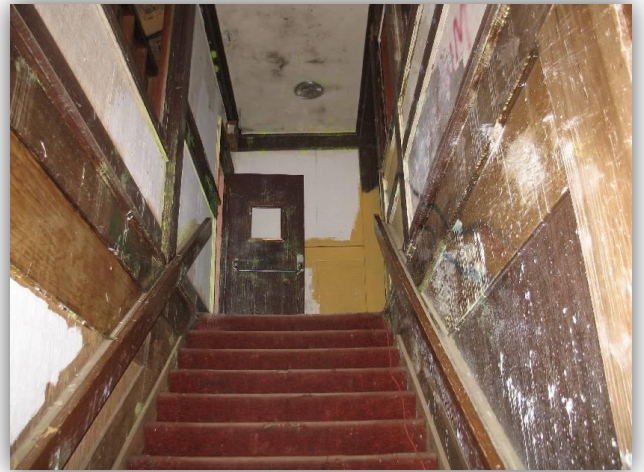
Mike 530-367-4505 radioman@ftcnet.net

North Star House

By Karen Wyatt



Six of us made it up to the North Star House in Grass Valley on the 31st. Thanks to Bruce Brodie for letting us know about this well kept secret! Lots of peeling paints, wallpapers, ceilings and doorways to shoot - kind of like getting into a Bodie building (sez Rich Myron) without any restoration having been done.



This 11,000 sq ft building is under total renovation, lots of destruction over the years has happened by different owners and

uses, including being used

as a home for juvenile delinquents. For those of you into shapes, colors and textures, this place is addicting!



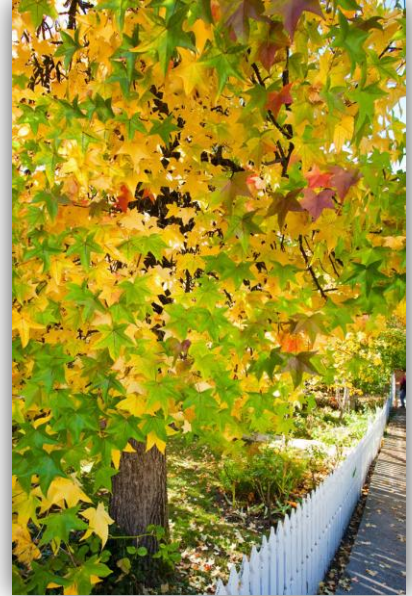
Nevada City & Empire Mine Photo Shoot

By Mike Schumacher – Group Photo by Barry Walton

In October members of the Placer Camera Club went to the Empire Mine in Grass Valley and then to Nevada City for fall color.



Empire Mine is an interesting place to 'shoot'. One side is a large park with reflecting pools and ivy and the other side is the remnants of the Empire mine. It has a working blacksmith shop run by docents. Various mining shops are as they were with openings to look in and take photos. Interesting old machinery lines the grounds. If you've never been to the Empire Mine it's worth the trip.



Nevada City is very nice in the fall. While this year wasn't spectacular there were isolated pockets of color. Take Broad Street and follow it to the top of the hill, park and walk the area. You will find grand old houses and tree lines sidewalks.

Judy Hooper, Steve Aldridge, Mike Schumacher, Dick Black, Ardath Winterowd, Sue Barthelow, Barry Walton, Bruce Brodie, Karen Wyatt, Glenda and Arthur Bell went on the photo shoot. Join us on our next outing!



WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR IN PHOTOS

You're probably wondering why we pick one image over another; there actually are some simple rules of photography we look for in each photo. Common mistakes are:

- (1) A photo out of focus, either the whole photo or part of it in an important location such as the bottom front of the print
- (2) Too much "clutter" in the picture. We want our attention to go directly to the subject, not see a lot of competing, but not necessary, clutter around it.
- (3) Exposure - is the picture too light or too dark to easily see the subject.
- (4) Poor lighting, a "flat" image where rocks, subject, sky, etc. all blend together without different shadows, colors, etc. or the opposite where the sun might bleach out the lighter parts of the image, giving no texture to those areas.

There are other more subtle criteria we look for; placement of the subject, size of the subject within the image, etc. but the 4 listed above are the first and foremost most commonly seen, easily correctible problems that usually cause a photo to be eliminated.

For more specific guidelines, please feel free to drop in on any of our Placer Camera Club meetings and ask questions! We have meetings the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 at the Beecher Room in the Library off Nevada Street. We have short programs, critique our own images, have "how-to" presentations and to end it all, great desserts!!!



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2nd Vice Pres Howard Godfrey
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Sue Barthelow

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Kristi Middleton

Greeters & Badges

Jim Bennett

Placer Camera Club Webpage

Check out the Placer Camera Club webpage.

<http://placercameraclub.org>

Mike Schumacher (Newsletter) 530-367-4505

radioman@ftcnet.net

Don't forget our tutorials webpage.

It's at:

<http://www.placercameraclub.org/tutorials/index.html>

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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.