



placer color



Volume 44 Number 4 **Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club** April 2006

Member Delta Council, Gold Rush Chapter, Photographic Society of America (PSA)

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 months meeting will be Tuesday, **April 18, 2006** at 7:00 PM.

This month we will have a short meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting we will take a trip to **old town Auburn** for a **photo shoot**, weather permitting, so bring your camera and tripod, it should be fun!



At the last meeting we discussed changes to make the competitions shorter. It was decided by member vote to go to 2 entries per category. This means a total of 2 entries in each projected category and print category. If, for example, you enter one **slide** in nature you can only enter one additional **digital** entry in the nature category. It was also decided to limit a judge's pre-competition presentation to 30 minutes or less. This should help avoid a repeat of February's long competition.

We were fortunate enough to have the loan of a digital projector for the past few meetings. Unfortunately that will no longer be the case. We need a digital projector at each meeting if we are to move forward as a club. If anyone has or knows someone who would be kind enough to let us use one once a month please let me know. In the meantime we, as a club, need to figure out ways to raise money to purchase our own digital projector. Other clubs are facing the same problem so we are not alone.

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PHOTO OPS

Jim L White

Where to go and what to shoot during the month of April.

A beautiful place to go and take flower, scenery, butterflies and river photography is the South Yuba River Park, operated by the California State Parks. Located at the old mining village of Bridgeport in Nevada County it is reached by traveling south of Grass Valley on highway 20 about 5 miles where one turns right on the Lake Wildwood Rd. Follow

this road until you come to the Yuba River and you are there. For close-ups of the old covered bridge turn left at the first parking lot and park by the bridge and visitor center. If you want to skip the bridge and visitor center, drive across the Highway Bridge and park on your right at the Buttermilk trail head. This is what Shirley and I did on April 6th and hiked the Buttermilk trail upstream to where it ends in about 1 mile. Along this scenic and almost level trail we saw at least 20 different flowering plants; most prominent was the very orange Tufted Poppy. Other flowers of yellow, purple, pink and blue lined the hills and slopes leading down to the South Fork of the Yuba. Many flowers are marked with small signs for identification. Large black butterflies with orange checked wings landing on the flowers were the highlight of the hike. A few Redbuds were still in bloom, with most of them over their bloom and already setting their leaves. Resting benches are along the trail and picnic tables are near the parking lots for lunch after your hike.

Bitterroot Flowers by Shirley White



Another great nature spot is the small population of the almost rare Bitterroot flowers found growing near Traverse Creek south of Georgetown, El Dorado Co. Since the sun must hit the flowers of the Bitterroot plant for them to open, we usually have breakfast in Georgetown and then plan on being at Traverse Creek by 10 AM. Drive south of Georgetown on highway 193 about 1 mile to Bear Creek road. Turn left on Bear Creek

Rd and go ¼ mile and then take the fork to the left down into the valley and Traverse Creek. This is BLM land and it looks almost like a park along the creek. A parking area and a trailhead is seen along the creek but to find the Bitterroots you need to cross the creek and drive about another 300 yards to the top of the 1st hill and park on the right on a shoulder of the road. If you pass a gated road on your right you have gone too far. Park on the large shoulder area edged with large rocks and walk toward the creek. Once the slope drops toward the creek, look for this very small plant with the purple flowers growing right out of the serpentine rocks. Watch where you walk, or you will step on them. Macro lens and knee pads work best. Take something to filter the sun over the flowers to make the light soft.

Storm clouds & Wildflowers by Jim L White



After shooting the Bitterroots, if your timing is right the hill to your east will be covered in yellow, purple and red flowers. My best shot here was done just before a thunderstorm hit, and I had to use a strobe to light up the flowers with the big Digger Pines in the background and a big black

cloud behind that. It can't get any better for a photographer. We checked out the plants on 4/8/06 and the plants need at least 2 more weeks for the flowers to bloom. Some yellow flowers were on the hill to the east, and photographs were taken but it will be better later also. We hiked the 2 mile loop trail starting at the visitor parking lot on the creek and although it was a nice hike, give it two more weeks for flowers. California Emeralds are found in the creek and the nearby prospects, but put them back. We left a few there for you to see, not to take. Jim

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Understanding Stops in Photography

Mike Schumacher

The stop is a basic unit of light in photography. Stops can be controlled by shutter speed, f-stop and iso setting. Shutter speeds double or half the amount of light. Standard shutter speeds are:

1/2 1/4 1/8 1/15 1/30 1/60 1/125 1/250 1/500 1/1000 sec

A step faster halves the amount of light and a step slower doubles the amount of light.

Going from 1/60 to 1/30 sec doubles the amount of light. Going from 1/30 to 1/60 halves the amount of light.

Iso is the sensitivity of film or the digital sensor to light. The higher the number the more sensitive the film or digital sensor is to light.

Standard iso settings are 50 100 200 400 800 1600

Increasing the iso one step doubles the amount of light (one stop), decreasing iso one step halves the amount of light (one stop). Caution should be used when adjusting iso to a high value. Higher iso settings can introduce noise especially in the shadows.

Aperture settings are described in f-stops. F-stops specify the light gathering ability of the lens. A specific f-stop on one lens, say f8, will be the same on another lens.

Standard f-stops are:

1 1.4 2 2.8 4 5.6 8 11 16 22

The higher the f stop number the less light and the smaller the aperture of the lens. The lower the f stop number the more light and the larger the aperture of the lens. If we use f4 as an example going to f5.6 halves the amount of light (one stop) and going to f2.8 doubles the amount of light (one stop). In our f4 example going to f5.6 would be referred to as closing down the aperture and going to f2.8 would be referred to as opening up the aperture. Aperture also controls depth of field. F16 will have more depth of field than

f5.6. Depth of field can be used very creatively to direct the viewer's eye.

If you've gotten this far you might be wondering, why do I care about all this? It is very useful to understand these inter-relationships. Controlling aperture for depth of field and shutter speed for freezing or blurring action are basic tenants of creative photography.

More importantly we've all had fantastic photo op's and tried to capture what we see. The human eye can see between 12 to 14 stops of light. Your digital or film camera can see about 5, maybe 6 or 7 if you play a bit in the darkroom. So when we are in the forest with the sun shining through the treetops we have at least 5 stops of light or more between the shadows of the forest and the sunlight at the top of the trees. Matrix metering combines the highlights and the shadows to create an average. So if you have bright sunlight and deep shadow it creates a compromise that has either plugged up shadows or blown highlights. This is where knowledge of stops in photography comes in handy.

Winter Sunset by Mike Schumacher



When we meter a subject we are measuring the light reflected off the subject, this is called reflectivity. Snow has a reflectivity of about 90%. A black bird or building has about 20% reflectivity. Your camera sees midtones or **middle reflectivity** commonly called middle gray or 18% reflectivity. This is why with snow we add a stop or so of light. The camera will try to render it a mid

tone. If we use our forest example, metering for the sunlight will render the forest floor as underexposed. Metering for the forest floor will blow out the treetops. In extremes like this you have to make a decision. Your camera will try to render the whole scene and more than likely not do a very good job. Using the spot meter on your camera, meter the forest floor and subtract one stop of light. Check your histogram, it should be a nice bell curve in the middle. It shouldn't be bunched up on the left or right side. If it isn't adjust exposure compensation in 1/3 or 1/2 stop increments until you get a nice histogram. If there is too much dynamic range (contrast) in the scene you will have to make a decision as to which part of the scene to render. When using your spot meter you are telling the camera which element in the scene to render as a midtone. You can meter the treetops or the sky and let the tree trunks and forest floor fall into shadow. Waterfalls in bright sunlight will often fool a meter. Subtract one stop of light and check your histogram!

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Swap Shop – Photographic Items for Sale or Trade

#1 Nikkor-H Auto 300mm f4.5 lens with lens collar and UV filter \$300.00

#2 Nikkor 105mm f2.5 Modified to auto indexing. UV filter. Make offer.

#3 Nikkor 200mm f4 Modified to auto indexing. UV filter. Make offer.

Contact Jim L White 530-885-8511

Nikon Speedlight SB-80DX new condition

Nikon 70-300 AF 4-5.6 zoom lens excellent condition

Call Howard Godfrey at 530-885-2143

Velbon Video Tripod - Heavy duty - max load 15 lbs

2 way fluid pan head

Height - closed 26.5 in. - open 64.2 in. - Weight 4.5 lbs

Comes with case and quick release bracket - \$30

Slik ez-pod jr monopod supports 8.5 lbs

folded length 20.3in. - extended 63in. - weight 11lb

with quick release and carry strap - \$20

Tek padded triangular padded carry case with front pocket

belt loop and sholder strap for slr - \$10

Nikon carry case for point and shoot with

belt loop and front pocket - \$5

Contact Mike Schumacher at 530-367-4505

If you want to sell or are looking for photography related items you can list them in the newsletter. Email or call me. Listings are free for members. Mike 530-367-4505
radioman@ftcnet.net



Critters in a Snowy Scene by Karen Wyatt

2006 Placer Camera Club Officers

President – Mike Schumacher	530-367-4505	radioman@ftcnet.net
Vice President – Richard Myren	530-268-3475	rgjk@earthlink.net
Treasurer – Shirley White	530-885-8511	padhorski@infostations.net
Secretary – Jane Flickinger	530-885-0714	jfk@infostations.net
Judges – Karen Wyatt	530-878-0556	kwyatt@cwnet.com
Newsletter – Mike Schumacher		

Internet Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.jumbogiant.com>
<http://www.imaging-resource.com/>
<http://www.dcresource.com/>

Palco - Large Prints - Local here in Auburn
Digital Camera Reviews & Photography Info
Digital Camera Reviews & Photography Info

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 April 18th at 7:00 PM!

Planning a Trip?

Seek the Help of a PSA Travel Aide!



PSA has volunteers all over the globe who are willing to assist any PSA member with his or her photographic travel plans. These PSA members will provide you with information as to where, what, and when to photograph in the area(s) in which you are planning to travel.

All you have to do is contact the Travel Aide Director, Ellie Webster, FPSA, and give her your personal PSA membership number and tell her where you are planning to go. She will provide you with the name(s), addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of the volunteer(s) for the area(s) to which you are going.

Please remember that these members are volunteers; therefore, you will need to allow plenty of time for the contacts, and you will also need to provide self-addressed stamped envelopes if the Aide is going to send you any material or for Ellie if you are contacting her by U.S. mail.

Contact Ellie at:

elliwebster2@sbcglobal.net
(650) 574-4177

Eleanor Webster, FPSA
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