

PLACER COLOR



NEWSLETTER OF THE...

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<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

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

The President's Corner

This month we have our annual **Christmas Cookie Fest**. Bring a half dozen or so **cookies** or **treats** to the meeting and we can all share and take some home. Bring some to share, eat some and take some home!

We also have our **member slide show**. All members can participate, 5 minutes max and it should be a connected theme. Music or not, narration or not the choice is yours. Your show can be put together is a slide show program or just a put them in a folder and we can use the windows slide show feature. Bring your show to the meeting on a cd, dvd or a flash thumb drive.

We also have our **theme of liquid**. One image entry per person. You don't have to be a member to participate in our Theme. Email your theme image to placercameraclub@gmail.com before the meeting on the 21st.

Remember: be creative!

Future Themes will be Street Art (March) and Humor/Motion (June).

January will be our next image evaluation. **Jeff Burkholder** will be our judge. Image evaluations are open to members only. Members must be up to date on dues to participate. If you have not paid your dues see Judy Hooper.

See you at the meeting on December 21st.

Mike Schumacher

EVENT CALENDAR

December 21st

Monthly Meeting

Cookie Fest

&

Member Slide Show

•

December's Theme

LIQUID

•

January 18th

Monthly Meeting

Image Evaluations

•

Future Themes

Street Art (March)

Humor/Motion (June)

See last page for club officers, committees & all other Club information.

STORMPROOF YOUR CAMERA

By Jim L. White

I love storms! I especially love storms when the forecast is for “blowing and drifting snow”. I learned to enjoy storms from the world famous snow avalanche consultant and trainer Norm Wilson. I was a student of Norm’s many years ago when he was giving a week- long avalanche class for the U.S. Forest Service in Reno and was preparing us for the backcountry field trip part of the program. I was hoping for sun and blue skies since I needed photographs of using high explosives in snow avalanche control for my own programs. Norm ask us all to pray for a storm so we could really learn something from the back- country ski tour and get some “spectacular” photographs. I had to think about that one. What could we possibly photograph during a heavy snow storm that we could not get better photographs of in blue-bird weather? Well I learned.

The first thing I learned was that the nylon covered foam camera holster (Early Winters Co. \$19.95 in 1973) that Norm suggested we use on the trip really worked. I put my Nikon FM2 in that holster, strapped it around my waist and let it snow. I packed that holster on my waist for many years of backcountry skiing, hiking, horse back travel and even walking down the street for candid street photography. I still have and use the holster for a spare lens from time to time. I had to change to a larger holster for my cameras when I started to use the larger SLR’s of today. I use an M Rock holster with two outside zip pockets and a Lowepro Topload Zoom 2 with one outside pocket for batteries, flashcards and filters. I think Lowepro packs and camera holsters are the best. I ski, hike, ride horses and the Sugar Bowl chairlift with my holster on my waist sometimes in snow storms and below zero temperatures and weather has never caused a camera problem. I drape the bottom of my ski parka over the holster which adds some warmth, weather and rain proofing to the setup.

For open boat travel in storm conditions, for many years I used a war-surplus ammo box lined with the blue back-packer ground pad I cut and glued to the sides and bottom. This works fine but is noisy in metal boats if you are shooting wildlife. On many arctic canoe trips my pictures show my ammo box sitting outside next to my tent, safe from rain, snow and the billions of insects. I still have and use the ammo box. About 15 years ago I converted



to a Pelican 1500 water proof case with foam partitions (B&H Photo, \$91.19). You can purge inside case pressure for air travel with a push of a button. On canoe & kayak trips I lay the pelican on the floor of the canoe or between my legs in the kayak and tie a safety thong from the case to the boat. In the North Country a week of rain is common and I have never had a camera get wet even though the case was never out of the elements.



Much of our winter photography now is done from our truck during the storm. We often stop and shut off the vehicle and walk the road with a Genuine Leather Chamois (K Mart \$12.99, 3.5 sq. foot) draped over the cameras, our hands under the Chamois working the controls. Most of the snow and moisture lands on the Chamois and is easily shook off before we enter the vehicle. We use the Chamois to wipe the filter on the end of the lens and the camera body to absorb moisture. Remember if there is grit on your camera the Chamois will scratch your lens and camera. We blow and brush our cameras before and after

each trip. Once back in the truck we use a 24x24 inch Microfiber Drying Towel (K-Mart, \$3.99) to pick up any moisture residue left on the camera. The Chamois and Microfiber Drying Towel are hung near the heater blower vent to dry between shots. We take our Chamois and Drying Towel with us year-round and use continually.

Shooting during a snowstorm offers you scenes you will never see on a blue-bird day. On one recent storm trip we shot a U.P. train stopped by trees across the tracks, orange clad U.P. workers digging out rail switches



and old highway 40 with dozens of snow-clad trees hanging low over the road. I 80 was closed but old highway 40 provided traffic-easy travel past the closures in a winter wonder land. Give it a try.

SPRAY & PRAY!

By Mike Schumacher

There is something about the digital mode that every now and again causes us to take too many images of the same subject. Aw heck, I might as well pop off a few more just in case, it's free and I can always delete them later. We have caused ourselves extra time in the digital darkroom for a few more of the same image. I'll admit, the urge is hard to resist. But when you do get to the editing process often we wind up keeping 5 shots of the same mediocre image saying, I'll decide later. Somehow later is often much later or never.

We can alleviate this by slowing down and smelling the pixels. If your camera has a live view mode (can display the image live on the lcd before it is taken) try using it. It helps to compose better images and the urge to spray and pray is lessened. By using live view mode composition, interest and focus come into better view. Most live view modes support a 100 % view of the scene, so no surprises later.

Another tip is to use a tripod. A tripod will help you slow down and really look at composition. Better yet use a tripod and live view.

This to me is the down side of digital. Don't get me wrong, I love the mode. But the urge to spray and pray is often overwhelming. We need to slow down and smell the pixels!

DARK SKY AT NIGHT, AN ASTRONOMER'S DELIGHT!

The following link is to an article in the **Auburn Journal** referencing, among others: “**Tony Hallas**, considered one of the best astrophotographers in the world, has made his home in the Foresthill area for the past 10 years.....”

A very interesting read:

http://auburnjournal.com/detail/166568.html?content_source=&category_id=&search_filter=&user_id=&event_mode=&event_ts_from=&event_ts_to=&list_type=&order_by=&order_sort=&content_class=1&sub_type=stories&town_id=>

Submitted by
Gary Resnick

CHIAPAS ADVENTURE

By Bill Stenwick

On November 21st, I returned from a 13 day photo tour of the State of Chiapas in southern Mexico. I went with Jim Cline Photography Tours. There were 10 of us plus Jim Cline. We had a really good group. Two from Reno, one from New York City, one from Seattle and one from Portland, and four from San Diego plus myself. I only knew one of them, an attorney from Portland who was on my last trip with Jim to Guatemala two years ago.

I think that my overall impression of the trip was that it was just magic. Chiapas was not at all what I expected. When I thought of Chiapas I always thought of a dark skinned man in a white shirt and knickers wearing huarachis and a sombrero and cutting brown corn stalks with a machete. While there is some of this, Chiapas is extremely diverse. It is a large state and went from San Christobal de Las Casas at 7,000' and cool to nearly sea level in the hot and steamy jungle along the Usumacinta River bordering Guatemala. In between are vast areas of rolling



“The Christmas Tree”

hills of Zapatista country with farms and ranches and buildings painted brightly with Zapatista propaganda, and photos of Che Guevara.

We began with a cruise in a small boat down the Sumidero Canyon and saw the high narrow walls and many birds from vultures to egrets, and pelicans, as well as crocodiles.

A wonderful area called “The Christmas Tree” is a geological/botanical formation under a waterfall that comes down the canyon walls and is truly unique. We



cruised under it taking photos for a long time.

Next, we met some local girls that Jim had taken photos of before on previous trips who wore native Tzotzil costumes

and posed for us at a local church and along the streets. He brings them copies of the photos on the next trip. The next day, we went to the local villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan. The church

in Chamula is a traditional church where catholic and local Maya rites are practiced. There are no priests. It was one of the most incredible experiences of my life. I witnessed an exorcism and the sacrifice of a chicken to heal a sick child right at my feet. This was not a staged thing, it was real. The church allows no photos under threat of getting beaten and your camera smashed. The thousands of candles provide a dark glow as people chant in Tzotzil language like a Tibetan ceremony.

In Zinacantan we visited local weavers and the local church. The church, being slightly more



modern than in Chamula has a sign on the door in Spanish that says “All worshippers are informed that it is forbidden to slaughter chickens inside the church.” I have a photo of the sign.



San Christobal is perhaps the cleanest city I have ever seen. This includes Singapore and Japan or anywhere else. It has many historic buildings and churches going back to the arrival of the conquistadores in 1528. It also has many fine restaurants. The walking streets with no cars make it a really wonderful place.

We next spent 3 days visiting 4 Mayan ruins at Tonina, Palenque, Yaxchilan and Bonampak. I was exhausted from climbing up and down very high pyramids to get photos. It was really hot and humid, making it worse. The trip down the river to Yaxchilan was really like out of a movie, and because of a strike in Palenque by the teachers, all the big buses were stopped. At Yaxchilan and Bonampak we were the only visitors. It was wonderful.

We did some night shooting as well in San Christobal. Unfortunately I caught a cold from some of the others in our bus and basically lost the last two days, just going out for short periods and returning to rest. Still I want to go back as soon as I can to pick up what I missed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FIELD TRIPS — We would like to hear from Members regarding ideas for future camera club photo shoots. The board has discussed a couple of ideas but would really like to hear your suggestions.

FOR SALE

35mm cameras and lenses:

One pair (2) of OM-1 bodies, 3 lenses; **Zuiko** f1.4 50mm, **Vivitar Series1** f1.9 28mm, **Vivitar** f2.8-4.0 Zoom 70-210mm.

Vivitar 2x converter & many filters all in an aluminum case.

Asking: \$535 obo

Hasselblad 150mm f4.0 Sonnar lens;

Asking: \$595 obo

Offered by:

James Bennett

530-888-9617

MORE!!



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:

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 correctable 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!!

Board Members

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CHECK OUT THE.....

[Placer Camera Club Webpage](http://placercameraclub.org)

<http://placercameraclub.org>

Ardath Winterowd

Newsletter Editor — 530-886-8364

ardaths@wavecable.com

Don't forget our tutorials webpage at:

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

Huey Monitor Calibration

The club has a Huey monitor calibration system
for use by club members.

WANT TO 'CHECK OUT' HUEY?

Contact Judy Hooper - 530-888-8308