



# placer color



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<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

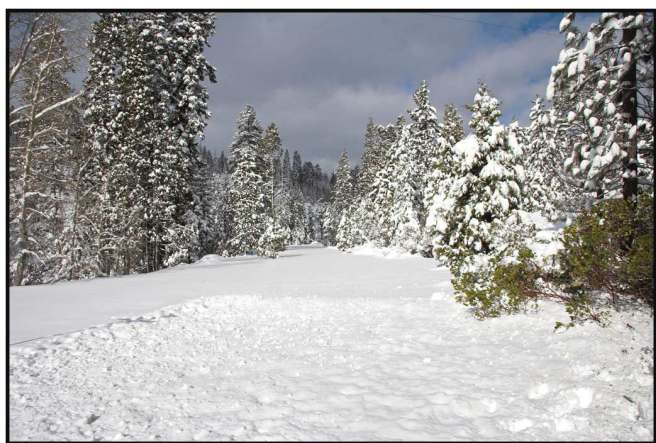
Member Delta Council,

**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!**

This months meeting will be Tuesday, **March 20, 2007** at 7:00 PM.

Just a reminder...if you haven't paid your dues yet send them to Placer Camera Club, PO Box 4990, Auburn, Ca. 95604, or see Judy Hooper at the next meeting. Check last months newsletter for dues info.

This Months presentation will be by Judy Hooper on **Enhancing Your Image**. The



presentation will show examples of good vs. poor composition, lighting, time of day, exposure length and other variables. Before this presentation I will give a short presentation on **basic** adjustments in **Photoshop**.

Both of these presentations apply to film and digital. Much of what we now do in the digital darkroom has been done in traditional 'wet' darkrooms for years.

**Old town Auburn** night photo shoot will be our April meeting. Last year we had a good turnout and I know I have several pictures I didn't get last year that I want to try this year. It will be the 17<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. Rain dates will be the 16<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>.

Keep selling those **quilt tickets**...we still need a laptop and spare bulb for the projector!! As always you can **bring photos** you just want to show or want feedback or help with!

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## Ansel Adams at the Crocker Art Museum

As many of you may have heard there is an Ansel Adams show at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento. How about a group trip on a weekend to Sac old town for a photo shoot and then off to the Crocker to take in the Ansel Adams show?

[http://www.crockerartmuseum.org/exhibitions/exhib\\_pages/Adams.htm](http://www.crockerartmuseum.org/exhibitions/exhib_pages/Adams.htm)

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## ROAD HUNTING HAWKS & OWLS

Text & Photos by Jim White



Back in the 1960's I made a lot of money for the State of California as a California State Fish and Game Warden, arresting poachers who were road hunting and shooting out of their cars at hawks and owls, pheasants, meadowlarks and anything else found along our country roads. The road hunter motto was "if it flies, it dies" Using the car as a "blind" to shoot from, proved to be a deadly way get close to their prey with an easy shot. In later years I use the same technique to sneak up on and

photograph the many hawks and owls and other wildlife found in our unique Sacramento Valley. Almost every week, especially in the winter and early spring finds my wife Shirley and I "going hunting, for Hawks and Owls along the back roads of Placer, Sutter and Butte counties. Yesterdays hunt produced not only a batch of new hawk shots, but also some flowering fruit trees with the Sutter Buttes in the background, some close-ups of White Faced Ibis at Grey Lodge Refuge and a cotton-tailed rabbit that ran alongside the car and froze for his picture. We also found some new country along Butte Creek that we will return to in early winter next year for waterfowl.

How to go road hunting? Well we recommend at least a 300mm lens on a digital camera (gives you 450 mm compared to film focal lengths) or as long a telephoto as you can afford. We cut a piece of black pipe insulation about 1 foot long to slip over the partially



rolled down window, for a lens rest to stabilize your camera. You need to have your camera ready to grab in an instant and your window just at the right height so when you place the camera on the pipe insulation the camera is at eye level ready to go. Make sure all your camera settings are preset too. If the bird is on the other side of the road from you, give your partner first shot out of the window, and then quietly open your door, brace your camera on your door or edge of the roof for your shot. If the bird is on a telephone pole we mostly set up for the shot, open a door and step out and scare the bird, and shoot it in high speed mode while it is flying. With auto focus cameras that will track ahead of the flying bird, shooting at 3-5 frames per second; you will get some great shots of hawks and owls in action.



Main rule!! Drive slow! Pick out back roads with little traffic and pull over and let them pass you if a car comes up behind you. Most people can not see the wildlife right in front of them because they drive too fast and fail to recognize the shape of the animal in the grass or trees. It takes time and practice to be a good game spotter and the slower you drive the more animals you will see and get to shoot. Shirley recently spotted a great horned owl sitting in the high grass that a park ranger had driven right by. We look for deer tail and ear shapes that tell us there is a deer in the deep cover. I spotted the cotton tail rabbit first by seeing his ear in the tulles. When I stopped the car 20 feet before the rabbit, he panicked and ran right up

below my window and froze. If I had kept on driving he would have stayed still and let me go on by.

So go out and poach yourself some good wildlife pictures, by road hunting. Our motto is “if it flies, it’s at least an 8x10 on my wall

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## Snow Trip

Text & Photos by Mike Schumacher



On Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> Jim White led a small group on a snow photo shoot. While the light wasn’t the greatest a few interesting photos were to be had. The group consisted of Jim & Shirley White, Tammy Meredith, Richard Myren, Howard Godfrey, Judy



Hooper, John Vinton & Mike Schumacher. We took the Eagle Lakes Rd exit off Highway 80 and found a nice river scene there along with a frozen waterfall. We Then took the Cisco Grove exit and followed old Highway 40 up to Rainbow Bridge overlooking Donner Lake. At the overlook winds were 35 to 40 mph with air temp of 28 and blowing snow, visibility about 100 yards. At that point we decided it was time to head back. We had a nice snowshoe outing by the south fork of the



Yuba River where we ate lunch. It was my first time on snowshoes and it was very interesting. All in all it was a nice trip and thanks to Jim we now know some great places to shoot snow scenes. Below is a panoramic from the Rainbow Bridge overlook on a slightly better day.



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## Beginner's Corner

### Camera Metering

By Mike Schumacher

Last month we discussed exposure compensation and stops of light. Your camera metering mode will also affect how the camera interprets the light levels in a scene. There are 4 basic types of metering.

**Multi zone metering-** takes in the whole scene. Depending on the camera it might be called matrix, evaluative or multi zone, but it basically involves sampling multiple areas in a scene and using that to determine an f-stop and shutter speed.

**Center Weighted-** averages the whole scene with emphasis on the center of the scene.

**Partial-** meters only the center of a scene, usually about 9% of center.

**Spot-** meters only the center usually about 1 -> 3%.

Which of these metering systems you have will depend on the camera. Most will have multi zone, center weighted and partial or spot.

When your camera meters a scene it is calibrated to expose for middle gray or about 18% gray. The problem with this can be over or under exposure at extreme light levels. A dark scene will be brightened to 18% or over exposed and likewise a bright scene will be darkened to 18% or underexposed.

Modern cameras do a fairly good job on most scenes in the multi zone mode. It's extremes of light where we have problems. If you have a scene where a certain portion is brighter or darker than the rest and that's what you want to expose for you can use center weighted, take a reading and re-compose.

If you are shooting flowers you might want to use partial or spot.

Bracketing exposures comes in handy for tricky lighting. The camera will automatically bracket + 1/3 or 1/2 and - 1/3 or 1/2 depending on your settings. A bracketed set is usually 3 exposures. One at the recommended setting and one above and one below.

You can also use exposure compensation and do it manually. If you have a very bright scene with some deep shadows you will have to decide what you are exposing for. Take a spot or partial reading on the bright or dark areas and use exposure compensation accordingly.

For a dark area you would use minus exposure compensation and for bright areas you would use plus exposure compensation. Start with 1/3 or 1/2 stop and expose multiple frames. This sounds backwards but remember that 18% middle gray?

The whole point of this is your camera's meter can be fooled. It can and will expose a scene with difficult lighting wrong. This is why a scene with a lot of white like a snow scene with very little else will turn gray unless you use plus exposure compensation.

Next month your camera's different modes.

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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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*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](mailto:radioman@ftcnet.net)*

### 2007 Placer Camera Club Officers

President – Mike Schumacher	530-367-4505	<a href="mailto:radioman@ftcnet.net">radioman@ftcnet.net</a>
Vice President – Richard Myren	530-268-3475	<a href="mailto:rgjk@earthlink.net">rgjk@earthlink.net</a>
Treasurer – Judy Hooper	530-888-8308	
Secretary – Jane Flickinger	530-885-0714	<a href="mailto:jfk@infostations.net">jfk@infostations.net</a>
Judges – Karen Wyatt	530-878-0556	<a href="mailto:kwyatt@softcom.net">kwyatt@softcom.net</a>
Newsletter – Mike Schumacher		

### Internet Web Sites of Interest

<a href="http://www.placercameraclub.org">http://www.placercameraclub.org</a>	Placer Camera Club Webpage
<a href="http://www.jumbogiant.com">http://www.jumbogiant.com</a>	<b>Palco</b> - Large Prints - Local here in Auburn
<a href="http://www.luminous-landscape.com">http://www.luminous-landscape.com</a>	Photography Info
<a href="http://www.luminous-landscape.com/forum/">http://www.luminous-landscape.com/forum/</a>	Photo Forums - questions & answers

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

Mike Schumacher (Newsletter) 530-367-4505 [radioman@ftcnet.net](mailto:radioman@ftcnet.net)

**See you at the meeting March 20th at 7:00 PM!**

