



Placer Color



Volume 46 Number 3 **Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club** March 2008 **est. 1952**

<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

Member Delta Council,

Board Members

President Mike Schumacher
Vice Pres. Richard Myren
Treasurer Judy Hooper
Secretary Tony Middleton
Mem@large Howard Godfrey

Committees

Webpage & Publicity
Sue Barthelow

Education Committee
Howard Godfrey
Bruce Gregory
Jim Bennett

Equipment
Judy Hooper
Richard Myren

Judges for Competition
Karen Wyatt

Competition Data
Judy Hoper
Howard Godfrey

Newsletter
Mike Schumacher

Refreshments
Bonnie Godfrey

Greeters
Howard Godfrey
Karen Wyatt

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 18, 2008**. Informal gathering at **6:30** with the meeting starting **promptly at 7 PM**.

This month we have our **projected image evaluations**. Our judge will be **Jeff Berkholder**. Members are encouraged to submit photos for the evaluations. Even if you don't plan to participate, plan to attend the meeting. Feedback by a judge is a great way to learn what makes a good or bad photo. Jeff will have a short presentation on **lighting** after the judging.

Crocus by
Mike
Schumacher



Spring Wildflowers

by Bruce Gregory

Two regional sites that frequently have good results are **Bear Valley Rd** in western Colusa County, and **Table Mountain** in Butte County above Oroville.

For **Bear Valley** take Highway 20 west from Williams about 15 miles Bear Valley Rd is a right turn. It's a dirt road that goes north through Bear Valley for at least 30 miles. There are several roads branching off making a loop possible back to Interstate 5 or Highway 20. One of my favorites is a narrow, mostly paved, road that turn right toward Leesville, about 10 miles up Bear Valley Rd. It loops back to Highway 20 about 5-8 miles west of Williams.

This is sparsely populated ranching & oak woodland country. Make sure you have plenty of gas, and bring your lunch & beverages.. there are no 7-11's in the area. This area is on CSAA's Central California, Bay Area to lake Tahoe Map (Sectional Series). Find it at about B-4 coordinates.

Table Mountain is north of Oroville & east of Highway 70. From northbound Highway 70 above Oroville take exit 48 at Grand/Nelson Rd. My map is a little confusing, you want to turn east, or right for about a mile and find Cherokee Rd. It's either right across the intersection at the stop sign for Table Mountain Blvd, or it's a left on Table Mountain Blvd for a short distance then a right on Cherokee Rd. Go up to the plateau on top along Cherokee Road.

This is ranch land you'll see posted pastures on both sides of the Rd for a while. When you see the signs change and note Dept of Fish & Game on the signs that land has public access. Climb over, under, or through the wire and photo.

Further up on the left is a corner of the North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve. That's not fenced, an open for photographers. The road continues north and loops back to Highway 70 about 12 miles north of Oroville. Before it gets back to Hwy 70 it crosses a covered bridge and later goes through the picturesque gold rush era settlement of Cherokee.

Again, have lots of gas, and bring your lunch. This is on CSAA's Sectional Series Northern California map at K-8, but better seen on the other side of the map in the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area & Vicinity inset at the bottom of N-2.

For the more ambitious there's the Carrizo Plain National Monument that's between Highway 58 and Highway 166 in the hills between Atascadero on Highway 101 and Bakersfield on Highway 99. I've never had the chance to shoot there, but if you remember the picture that was all over the Internet several years ago of the incredibly thick field of flowers between two steep rolling hills this is where it was taken.

It's a National Monument, so I'm sure if you google the title, or go to NPS website you can get a contact number to see how things are going & some info for a visit. Soda Lake Rd runs down through the middle of it & i've heard that mentioned as a wildflower photo site.

It's on CSAA's Sectional Series Coast & Valley, Bay Area to Southern California map. It's at about C-9 on the map..

Let me know how your trip goes. it should be a good year for wildflowers because of the December & January rains. Watch Carol Leigh's www.calphoto.com website >wildflower hotline for hints of how things are going. For those interested in the deserts, and possibly Carrizo Plain www.desertusa.com or www.desertsusa.com has current wildflower info (not positive about the true website name..google will probably get you there.)

* * * *

Equipment Update

By Mike Schumacher

We now have a new laptop. It's a Dell with an Intel dual core, 2 gb of ram and Nvidia graphics. It should serve us well for the foreseeable future. It'll make its debut at the March meeting. Thanks to all your hard work on the quilt raffle we now have our own laptop and digital projector. Well done!

* * * *

Birds

Text & Photos by Walt Carnahan

Ray Hasey had posted on the yahoo group Yuba/Sutter birds that there was a red-breasted merganser at Shanghi Falls on the Yuba River. After reading his directions “In South Yuba City from Garden Highway you drive to the east end of Shanghai Bend Road and park at the levee. Cross to the east side of the levee and walk ten minutes south to Shanghai Falls, you will soon hear the falls.”



Consulting Google Earth and deciding that I could approach from the East side, skip going through Marysville and have the sun at my back I was driving below the east levee rd. when I heard a roar and thought that must be the falls. It corresponded with the Google Earth picture I'd seen though I wasn't to the wastewater plant which when I'd checked out earlier was closed and gated off. So I pulled off to the side and started across a sandy stretch towards some trees. An hour later I fought my way out of the brambles and poison oak around the trees without ever getting close to the river. The roar was the wind in the trees.



Back to plan A I decided and went on up the levee. I was just south of the wastewater treatment plant. I got there and discovered a nice road through the settling ponds that ended up overlooking the falls. Of course the mergansers and golden eyes along with some yellowlegs were on the Sutter County side of the river and barely visible. The wind was blowing a gale and I hung out for a while searching for the Red-breasted Merganser and watching Tree Swallows feed over the river.

Just As I was about to go get some lunch I spotted the red-breasted below the falls where there were several fishermen. I managed a few distant photos, into the sun that are nothing to write home about. It was a female

and my ID is questionable. But the cap was definitely streaky. Some wild radish in bloom caught my attention on the way out and I put the extension tube on my lens for a close-up.



I've decided not to describe this approach as I had to do a few things that were not on the up and up. Like drive over the Levy rd. disregarding signs saying "No Motorized Vehicles" and approaching across private land, though the occupant gave me permission. I think my original plan might still work if the wastewater plant is open and one gets their permission. There are signs in the interior pointing to river access. All in all, a pretty falls and I think eventually it will be easier to approach from Grass Valley.

* * * *



Bug by Mike Schumacher



Tips for Shooting Spring Flowers

Text and Photos by Sue Barthelow

Ah, spring is in the air. The daffodils and other spring bulbs are blooming throughout the foothills. The almond trees have moved beyond their peak bloom, and other trees are joining the cacophony of bloom to overwhelm the senses. Here in the countryside, the wildflowers are popping up, inviting us to come out and enjoy nature.

Being a photographer, you probably have your camera on your mind and, hopefully, in your hand. It's time to take advantage of those lovely spring blossoms; to capture them forever.

So dust off that camera and wake it up from its winter slumber. Here are some tips that may help.



Watch out for the wind. Unless it's the movement you're trying to capture, you'll get your best images when the **air is still**.



Use your **tripod** and **self-timer or remote control** to get the sharpest images.

Full sunlight brings out the **briest colors** and adds contrast to give you **highlighted detail**. Watch out for dark shadows. You can lighten the shadows using a reflector or fill flash.

If you want to give your flowers a **softer look** with muted colors, shoot on an overcast day, in the shade, during early morning or after sunset. You may be able boost your colors by changing your camera's optimize image settings to something that will produce more vivid colors (check your camera manual).

Depending on the orientation, the light near sunset can make light colored flowers **glow** against a darker background.

Use your **aperture priority** setting. To blur the background, start with an f/5.6 aperture. Move upwards from there to get more and more depth of focus. Anything over f/11 is probably overkill.

Set your **color saturation** setting to Enhanced.

Use a variety of **lens** focal lengths. Try everything from wide angle to telephoto. A telephoto lets you step back from the flower and makes it easier to throw the background out of focus.

Try your camera's **macro setting** and get up close. You can capture an interesting part of a flower that will give you a different type of image.

Shoot in both horizontal and vertical **camera positions**.

Want to create a **portrait**? Try placing a black, white or colored backdrop behind a flower to give it that formal, composed look.



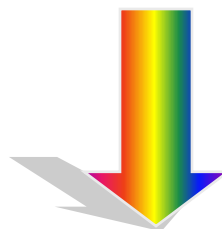
Vary **your position** and look for the most compelling image. You can shoot from below or above the flower. You can shoot from a level straight at it. Sometimes shooting from an off-angle will give you the best image. Watch the light and shadows. Look for an angle that gives you interesting texture or contrast.



Trying to capture a **fine art** type of image? Get up close and personal. Capture a small area of the flower that provides an interesting feature. Leave or crop out everything except for that intriguing section.

How about something in **black and white**? Look for color variations that will give you everything from black to white.

* * * *



“Through The Viewfinder”

By Tony Middleton

In this month’s column I want to talk about returning to a shot you wanted but missed. The photo in this edition was 3 years in the making. Three years, you might ask, for a barn? Barns don’t move, they have pretty consistent color and surroundings, and they are all around us, right?

Well, here is the story. Kristi and I enjoy taking day trips to explore new places or look for new areas to go camping. On one such trip we found ourselves over near Clearlake in the foothills around Lake Pillsbury. After many hours of meandering over several miles of dirt, gravel and semi-paved roads in search of a camping resort near Lake Pillsbury we decided to head back home. We seldom take the same road out as we took in if there are options. This way we get to see more of the surrounding areas. With Kristi navigating we found what looked to be a quicker route back to Hwy 20, so we headed out.



Along a country road that I still don’t know the name of, tired and having a few hours more to drive we came around a corner and on the left over my shoulder was this beautiful barn.

Unfortunately at the time I was without a camera of any kind and could not do anything about it.

On we went, home to Colfax. The following year I purchased my Cannon 20D and dove headlong into burning pixels and recording our travels. All the while in the back of my mind was this barn. Finally last spring we decided to go back and see if we could find it. Lucky for me, between Kristi and I we located the barn from memory. We spoke to the landowner and asked permission to photograph his barn. He gladly obliged and threw in the history of the barn for free.

Shortly after the attacks of 9/11 this man's wife was driven by a need to show her support for all who were affected by this national tragedy. For 3 days straight from sunrise to sunset, she worked on this barn to show her support. That is why I call it Memorial Barn. Even though the picture was taken in harsh midday light and the season was a little dry for truly great color, the story of this barn and its patriotic paint scheme was worth the three-year wait.

Three things I learned from this picture:

- 1) Always have a camera with you, even if it is just a 'point and shoot'. It can record the shot when it catches your eye.
- 2) Always carry a notebook or journal when out on your excursions. This way you can jot down locations, street names, mileage, or other notes to help get you back to a specific location in the future. I was lucky my memory was clear or I may have never found this relatively remote location a second time.
- 3) Always ask permission to photograph on private property. With a few moments of courtesy to the landowner we were given not only the OK to take as long as we wanted to take photographs, we were given a very personal account of why this barn looks the way it does. For me the story of this barn only beautifies the image I captured 'through the viewfinder'.

* * * *

Lambs
By
Mike
Schumacher



Swap Shop

FOR SALE

Nikon Nikkor 200mm f/4 Micro IF AIS lens. This is the manual focus model which focuses down to a reproduction ratio of 1:2 (half life size) without any attachments. Even at 1:2 magnification, the free-working distance is approximately 19.5 inches between the front of the lens and the subject. This is one of the big advantages of a long focal length macro lens over shorter ones. This lens is among the few top rated close-up/macro lenses in the world. It is tack sharp and easy to use. It will work on both manual and auto focus Nikon camera bodies, (in manual focus mode of course which is likely all you'd use in macro photography), both film and digital. Many people forget that it is also an excellent telephoto lens.

The glass is flawless. The diaphragm is crisp and smooth with the blades being perfectly dry. It has both the built-in tripod collar and sliding hood shade, each of which operates as new. Both original front & rear caps are included. I'm also providing a 52mm UV-Haze filter if you want to be extra careful with that front element.

As a bonus, also included is the **Nikon 4T Close-up Attachment Lens.** This is a high quality, multi-element diopter which increases the magnification ratio of the base lens without losing any light. It simply screws onto the front of the lens just like a filter. It is a great accessory for this lens. It is in mint condition and comes with its original box and paperwork.

For those that were subjected to my club presentation on Close-up/Macro Photography a few months ago, the majority of the images I shared during that time were captured using this very lens.

I'm looking to get \$310, (which incidentally is less than what comparable lenses are selling for on eBay, *without* the 4T, which is \$30-50 itself). I'd love to see someone in the club continue to enjoy this lens as much as I have.

I'll be bringing the lens to the next few club meetings if you want to attach it to your Nikon (or Fuji) 35mm or digital camera body and see what it can do. I can also be reached at 530-268-3475 or 530-320-8961 or rgjk@suddenlink.net.
Thanks, Richard Myren.

* * * *

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

* * * *

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.

* * * *

Calendar of Events

March

18th – Camera Club Meeting –

[Placer Camera Club Webpage](#)

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

<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

→ *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 March 18th at 7 PM!!