



placer color



Year 47 Number 5 **Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club** May 2009 est. 1952

<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

PO Box 4990, Auburn, Ca. 95603

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!**

Event Calendar

May 19

Monthly meeting
Print image evaluations
Annual competition entries due.

June 16

Monthly meeting.
Election of club officers
Annual awards
Theme is **reflections**

July 21

Monthly meeting
Silent auction
Theme is **close up**

August

Club picnic, details to follow.
No monthly meeting

September 21

Monthly meeting.
Program to be announced.

This month's meeting will be Tuesday **May 19th**. Informal gathering at **6:30** with the meeting starting **promptly at 7 PM.**

This month we will have **print** image evaluations. Our judge will be **Jeff Burkholder**.

Jeff is a professional photographer and marketing professional, based in Northern California. Jeff also teaches photography at Sierra College and is a former photojournalism instructor at American River College.

Annual competition entries are due by June 1st. You may turn them in at the May meeting to Judy Hooper or me (Mike). I should have your digital entry so you just need to turn in slides and prints. Let me know via email the titles and category of your digital image.

You will be able enter 3 entries per category and it must have been shown in a P.C.C. image evaluation between Oct 08 & May 09.

The categories are:

Prints: Open, Nature, Travel, Monochrome

Projected: Open, Nature, Travel and Photo Journalism.

1st, 2nd 3rd place will be awarded in each category plus any honorable mentions. In addition there will be an overall print of the year and projected image of the year.

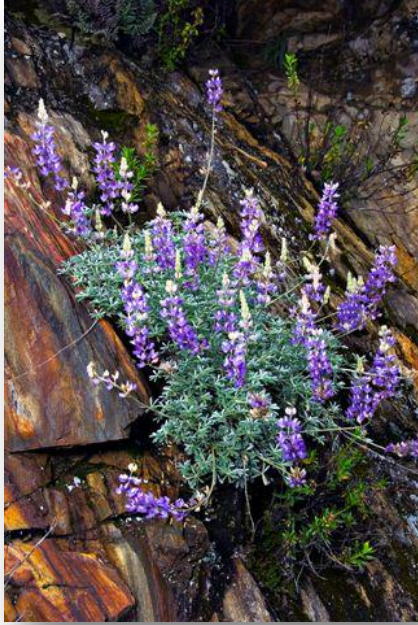
BIG MOSQUITO FALLS & HARLEQUIN LUPINE

By Jim L White

How about a 200 foot waterfall that nobody ever heard of and some wildflowers few have seen on a ½ day trip from Auburn. That is what we decided to photograph on May 3 during a lull in our spring rainstorms. With cabin fever running high we headed up to Foresthill shortly after 1pm where we turned on our GPS with our Topo maps loaded and noted our elevation in front of the Wells Fargo Bank. We then drove across the road to the French Meadows road and continued to the Mosquito Ridge road following my directions in our last newsletter. This time we did not turn right on the road to the Ralston Powerhouse but continued straight up the Mosquito Ridge road to an elevation of about 2000 feet or so above Foresthill. There was that paved road to the south-east (the only paved road in the area going that way) that has got to be one of the steepest paved roads in our county. So down we went in our Outback, starting off in 3rd gear to 2nd gear with the last third of the trip in low gear. We will be dropping down this canyon about 2000 vertical feet so do not let your brakes get too hot. It is a nice ride with beautiful views off into the abyss of the river canyon. The first and only creek of any size you cross is Big Mosquito Creek and 100 yards later is a major pull off to the right blocked by VW size boulders. Remember this spot, we will park here on the way back and hike 50 yards or so to a park bench that overlooks a fabulous waterfall. Watching my altimeter until it read about 2500 feet at a GPS reading of N39.01.779 W120.47.157 I carefully pulled off to the right in the shade of a pine tree and parked. Double checking to make sure I was in Park with the hand brake on, I was truly in the land of the almost rare and hard to find Harlequin Lupine.

Harlequins were under the tree where I parked but are most spectacular on the cliffs on the left side of the road. It was overcast with clouds and threatening rain but a perfect light to try out my new





portable soft-box with my strobe. The Bush Lupine on the cliff was so beautiful I could not pass it up too. After an hour of shooting we sat on the edge of the cliff and wondered at the Dogwood blooms along the river below.

On the way back up the mountain we stopped at the pullout just before Big Mosquito Creek and walked along the right side of the huge grassy hill, thru a tangle of trees and sat on the bench and enjoyed the thunder of the falls. If you can figure out how to make a good photograph of this falls without exposing yourself to mortal harm, let me know.

This is another effort on my part to stir up your exploration genes so you can photograph some of the wonders of our local Sierra Nevada. Think of these directions as clues to a Geocache of picture possibilities. The first person to send me the numbers from the mining claim sign marker at the Harlequin parking spot *wins a dozen homemade brownies*. A picture of the tree with the marker will be just fine. Good luck.

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Beginners Corner

Your Camera's Modes

By Mike Schumacher

Your camera has different shooting modes for different situations. This month we'll take a look at some of them.

Most cameras have a simple point a shoot mode which allows for the least creativity. The camera sets most of the parameters and allows the least human intervention.

The next step up (on Canon, I'm not sure about Nikon) is a P – program mode. This still sets aperture and shutter speed but allows the user to set different relationships between aperture and shutter speed with the spin of a dial. Slower shutter speed and smaller aperture or faster shutter speed and wider aperture. Many other options can be set including choice of raw or jpg, type of metering etc. This is fine for some pictures but not all.

Three other modes allow for the most creativity.

TV - time value or shutter speed priority. In this mode the user sets the shutter speed and the camera sets the correct aperture. This is very useful when the subject is fast moving and you want to freeze it such as sports, car racing etc or you want to emphasize movement such as in a slow shutter speed to show motion in a waterfall. This is a good mode for nature photography such as fast moving critters. Using a telephoto lens often requires a fast shutter speed to prevent 'lens blur'. The use of a tripod is recommended with a telephoto but not always practical or possible. One way is to use the focal length of the lens as the shutter speed. If the focal length is 250mm use 1/250 sec or faster shutter speed.

AV – aperture value or aperture priority. In this mode the user sets the aperture and the camera sets the correct shutter speed. This can be used for creative depth of field compositions. This is a great mode for landscape and close-up photography where depth of field (or lack of it) is the main criteria. The photographer can use depth of field as well as composition to direct the viewers eye in the photograph.

M – or manual mode. This mode allows for the most control of the camera. The user sets both the aperture and shutter speed. This can be used in with the cameras metering to control all aspects of the exposure.

All 3 of these modes can be used for **night** photography.

In the **manual** mode using the cameras spot or partial metering take a reading on the area of the composition you want to emphasize and set the appropriate aperture and shutter speed. You can then re-compose your picture.

In **aperture** or **shutter** priority modes you can focus on depth of field or blur car headlights. These modes will work if there are no extremes of light. You can use the above method of metering and re-compose.

With night photography **bracketing** is very useful. Make multiple (usually 3) exposures above and below the desired exposure. That would be one exposure at the desired exposure and one above and one below.

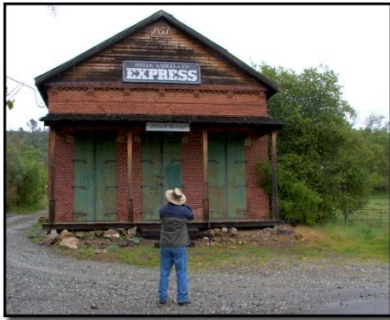
A **tripod** is essential if you want sharp photos.

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Bridgeport – A Local Covered Bridge

Text & Photos by Mike Schumacher



Here's a nice day trip, a trip to South Yuba River state park to see the Bridgeport covered bridge. Built in 1862 it is the longest single span covered bridge in the United States. When you're done at Bridgeport continue



up the road a few miles to French Corral. There you will find an old Wells Fargo building. Continuing up the road a few miles you will cross the Yuba River. There is a parking area along with a trail that runs by the river. At the bridge over the river you will see rocks the size of small cars.

Continue up the road and it will connect with highway 49 a few miles north of Nevada City.



To get there take highway 49 to Grass Valley and take highway 20 towards Marysville. About 7.5 miles from



Grass Valley turn right (north) on Pleasant Valley Road. Continue up Pleasant Valley Road for about 7 miles and you will come to the Bridgeport Covered Bridge. As mentioned above, when you're done at → Bridgeport continue up the road to French Corral and the parking area by the Yuba River. The road will connect with highway 49 north of Nevada City.

More info: http://www.ncgold.com/Museums_Parks/syrrp/Bridgeport/

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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.