



# placer color



Volume 45 Number 4 **Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club** April 2007 **Since 1952**

<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!**

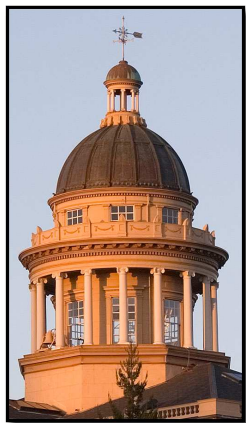
This months meeting will be Tuesday, **April 17, 2007** at 7:00 PM.

This month we will be our old town **Auburn night shoot**. We will be meeting in old town at 7pm in the upper parking lot behind and overlooking Tio Pepes restaurant.

We will **not** meet at the **library** so don't go there!

Last years photo shoot was a enjoyed by many members so plan on coming!

Rain dates will be either Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup>. I will confirm via email which day it will be. If no rain is in sight it will be Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.



Gear to bring would include a tripod and a remote shutter release. If you don't have a remote release you can use the timer function.

At the **June** meeting we will be electing new club officers. It's time to start thinking of nominations.

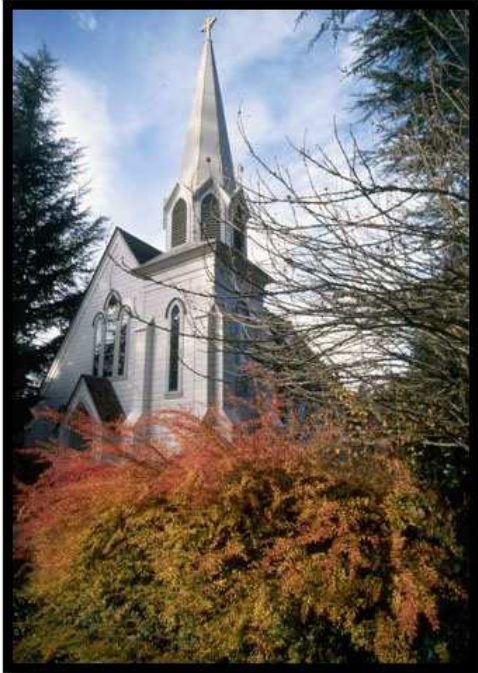
Also happening at the **June** meeting will be the annual awards from our competitions.

Your annual entries are due at the **May** meeting. Eligible entries are photos that have been entered in our competition from Jan 2006 to May 2007. Same categories and you can enter 4 per category so bring your best.

At the **June** meeting we would like to have photo essays either slide or digital. It can be 20 to 30 pictures on any topic you wish. Presentations should be short, 10 to 15 minutes.

## Wide is Wonderful

Text & Photos By Jim L White



The old Episcopal Church in Nevada City is beautiful. Built in the late 1800's its soaring white steeple with the cross on top and the fall colors on the shrub in front was a photographers dream come true. I saw this picture possibilities in the late 1990's when I was shooting with my Nikon N-90 and Velvia film. With my standard lens, a Nikon 28-105mm zoom lens, I stepped up on the curb to frame the white church and the amber colored shrub in the foreground. But even at 28mm the ugly black telephone cable cut thru the top of my frame. What to do? I knew it would be a great shot, but not with that cable in view. Moving closer to the church to cut the cable out of the frame also cut off the cross on the top of the steeple!. But then I remembered. The brand new Sigma 17-35 zoom lens my wife had given me for my birthday last August. Never before used, I snapped it in place, framed the shot with the

church the steeple the amber colored bush in front, and no ugly telephone cable to be seen.

My move to digital in 2003 unfortunately condemned my wonderful wide angle lens to my storage drawer. Why? Because my new Nikon D-70 sensor was not a full 35mm sized sensor, but smaller, and thus multiplied the image size by 1.5 times. Oh sure my 70-300 zoom was now a 105mm to 450 zoom and great for shooting wildlife but what about my beautiful \$500 Sigma wide angle lens? As long as I shoot digital with their APS-C sized image sensors it was gone for good. I went back to film to shoot some special shots of the Donner Pass area for a magazine article I was doing, but darn, I wanted to shoot that piece with my new digital camera. Man I hated to lose the use of that wonderful lens.

Fast forward to Christmas 2006, and to put a smile back on my face, Santa ( Shirley, my wife) gave me a AF-S Nikkor 12-24mm 1:4 G ED DX wide angle lens made especially for digital cameras only. Wow! Would this open up that world I had discovered with the super wide Sigma? Well the first time I really needed it was on our way the "Shooting the West" conference in Winnemucca Nevada. A friend told me about all that birds we might see at the Rye Patch Reservoir on the Humboldt River, between Reno and Winnemucca.

The campground at the dam proved a great place to have lunch.

A true desert reservoir it adds color and life to an otherwise bleak part of Nevada but was a real challenge to photograph at 12 noon. Somehow I had to frame the strangely blue-green water with the sparse trees, and yet be able to see the snowcapped mountains in the background. And what to do about that really bright sky? It was going to blow out the shot for sure. My standard lens now is the Nikkor 18-200 AF-S



and I could not see a picture thru that lens as hard as I tried. I could not get the trees in the viewfinder to frame the lake. If I moved back to get the trees in the frame the mountains in the background were too small. I had almost forgotten my new 12-24 lens but when installed on the Nikon D200 with a B-W polarizer, I could not believe what I saw. I think being able to pull the trees into the scene and darken that bright sky with the polarizer made the day.

I am back in business and “ wide is wonderful” again.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Slide Processing**

By Bruce Gregory

Recently Kodak closed it's Northern California lab, leaving only expensive mailers, costly camera shops, or Longs, etc for slide processing. At the recommendation of some Sacramento photographers I tried a Sacramento lab and was very satisfied.

The lab is Cali-Color, 191 Lathrop Way, Suite H, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916 923-5505, or 888 923-5505, [www.Calicolor.com](http://www.Calicolor.com) .

A roll or E-6 processed slide film 135-36 is \$7.75, mounted in plastic mounts and returned in a plastic box. But get this..it's a two hour turn around. The lab opens at 0830 in the morning, first run is at 0900, and the slides are ready by 1100. They have other runs during the day as well.

The lab is near the west end of Expo Blvd, near REI & Expo Costco. A breakfast over on

Arden Way, and a Costco trip & my film was ready.. One trip. The traffic was good the day I went down and my travel time was about 47 minutes from Applegate. There's a map and directions on the web how to get to their place.

If you want, they do mail order.. send them your film, instructions to mount the slides or not, your VISA number and a return address & they will do a mail turn around. Final cost depends on the weight of your order. I don't know if there's a handling fee involved (you can call and ask).

Think about this you're travelling out of state, have completed most of your trip and your photography..you Priority or Express Mail your film to them, and it's waiting when you get home.. I may try that one on my next big trip.

They've been in business for 30 years and seem to put out a good product, my first 8 rolls look good.

Bruce

\* \* \* \* \*

## A Capitol Afternoon

Text & Photos by Sue Barthelow

The club's April 1 photo shoot lead me to the state capitol. While the others in our Sunday group headed over to Old Town Sacramento, Judy Hooper and I wandered from the Crocker Art Museum towards the Capitol to meet up with Judy's cousin, Peter.



We stopped at the Stanford House along the way, lingering while our cameras inspected the building. Its intricate detailing and old-world architecture provided me with material for 18 shots. Although it lacked color, the house was quite photogenic.

From the Stanford House we moved on, stopping at the fountain that splashes at the end of Capitol Mall. This spot provided material for pictures

taken in all directions. The Tower Bridge crossed the river directly down the boulevard to the west while the Capitol overlooked us from the east. Stately buildings stood proudly to the north and the south. Nearly every other direction provided excellent foliage backdrops for the spewing water.



Having found Peter near the fountain, we began what turned into a multiple hour meander as we strolled clockwise around the Capitol through its gardens. The service



memorial for those “In the Line of Duty” provided several opportunities before we stepped over to the front of the domed landmark to begin our quest in earnest.

The building’s façade, which lacked an abundance of features and angles, didn’t provide much of interest. Other than the standard shots, I caught a few interesting ones at the front steps that included a wedding photo shoot and a man sitting on the ground contorting himself as he tried to get a snapshot of his family while including as much of the building as he could manage.

Unlike the building, the grounds provided unlimited picture-taking opportunities. The gardens were all about plants, animals, birds, ponds, statues and, of course, people. And need I mention the squirrels? There’s no need to ask those wonderful creatures to strike a pose.

I snapped anything that called attention to itself and looked like a good composition. I even captured some mid-afternoon snoozers.

Although I would like to have lingered at the pond, the mosquitoes stopped me short of my limit. I guess the groundskeepers don’t believe in dunks. Luckily, the rest of the grounds were free of the little man-eaters.

Finally nearing exhaustion, Peter, Judy and I stumbled back to Peter’s nearby car for a welcomed ride back to the Old Town parking lot that held Judy’s wheels for ransom. Once home, I downloaded 127 digital photos. With all of our May competition categories covered, I now have plenty of material to choose from.



\* \* \* \* \*

## Bird & Flower Adventures in Grass Valley

Text and Photos By Walter Carnahan

Eliot Porter in his 1972 “Birds of North America” writes “the most satisfactory outlet for expressing my excitement over birds was the camera.... Bird Photography is a pursuit that involves one in long hours of quiet sitting in the woods ... The secret of wildlife observation is obvious – and in truth no secret at all - for it merely requires close attentiveness to all the minutiae of what goes on around one, made possible by a stillness of posture so that to other creatures one becomes just another object in nature.”



My new 2 GB CF Card wasn't getting any use. I put it my camera the day before getting up early to try for the Great Gray Owl on Pleistocene Ridge Road. I've been chasing this bird off and on for three years. Jan Evers reported it at least three years ago and her website gave the only picture of it I've seen. Alas, Barb and I had been out on the Ridge Road since 7:30 AM and around 10 we gave up and came home empty handed.

In the afternoon I went over to the Wolf Creek part of Empire Mine State Park that runs along Bennett St. in Grass Valley. This beautiful old farm was donated to the park a few years back. The pear trees are just through blooming and the apple blossoms are coming on. South of the creek is an old road through some trees which opens onto a secluded riparian zone and most of the fruit trees. The North side along Bennett St. is a completely different grassland habitat.

I missed pictures of the Bewicks and Winter Wrens who'd been singing along with the Pileated Woodpecker hammering on a tree too far away and decided to check out the purple flowering Giant Trillium I'd been snapping roughly every other day for the past week and ran off a few different exposures. My new extension tube lay at home as I'd forgotten to put it my pack.

Easter Sunday the rain had ended and the morning was cloud free and quiet. Armed with my extension tube this time I got some macro pictures of the purple flowering Giant Trillium. The 25mm extension tube seems a bit too much and I'll return it in exchange for the 12mm.



A couple of years ago I'd seen the rarer white flowering Giant Trillium in the area and just as I was putting my gear away I spotted it on the other side of the creek in full bloom. I gathered my stuff and headed back to cross the creek in a dead trot as though I was afraid that it would disappear.

A Dark-eyed Junco posed on a blackberry vine on the way back to the truck. About to hang it up for the day when the Winter Wren started singing and I got a distant shot. The first warblers, orange-crowned and yellow-rumped are arriving now. Soon the Wilson's, Black-throated Grays and Townsends will congregate along the creek and I'll return to sit quiet in the woods and see what emerges.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **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.

Next month – composition and creativity.



## 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

*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 April 17th at 7:00 PM!**

