



Placer Color



Volume 46 Number 10 **Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club** December 2008 est. 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!**

Event Calendar

Dec 15

Our photos will be hung in the Beecher Room at the library.

Dec 16

Monthly meeting.

Snow photography by Jim White.

Bird Photography by Walt Carnahan.

Christmas cookie exchange.

Jan 20

Monthly meeting. Projected image evaluations. Assigned theme is 'squares or diagonals'.

Feb 17

Monthly meeting. Print image evaluations. Assigned theme is 'still life'.

March 1

Gold Rush meeting of PSA

March 17

Monthly meeting.

This month's meeting will be Tuesday **Dec 16th**. Informal gathering at **6:30** with the meeting starting **promptly at 7 PM.**

This month we will have a presentation by **Jim White** on **snow** country photography followed by a presentation by **Walt Carnahan** on **bird** photography. Jim worked for the forest service for 30+ years and Walt is a member of the Nevada county Audubon Society.

Also this month is our **Christmas cookie exchange** This is where you bring some cookies and take some cookies home. Store bought or homemade is fine. About a dozen or so will do.



Two Worlds- One Camera
Or “why should I keep my camera dry this winter?”
By Jim L White

Are you a photographer who likes paddle sports, scuba, skiing or just shooting up a storm out in the rain and snow for that perfect outdoor picture? If you are or know someone who is, these cameras might be a wonderful gift for them for Christmas....or maybe even for you?

The ECOshot camera, the first truly tough sports camera built by the market leader in underwater cameras, SEALIFE CAMERAS is shockproof to 6 feet, waterproof to 75 ft., run-over proof!, Rubber Armored and fits in your pocket. Hi-res 6 Mega pixels for sharp, colorful pictures and continuous video might be the one for you. The ECOshot might be one smart, tough, little camera...above or below the water. Check it out at <http://www.sealife-cameras.com>. Price \$ 229.95

Another camera the Olympus Stylus 1030 SW was made for the in the water and out in the crud crowd too. The 1030 SW is drop-proof up to 6.6 feet thanks to rugged metal construction. I used to hang my old Leica 111f on a tree limb at night while snow camping and you can do the same with this baby, it can withstand temps down to 14 degrees. Most importantly its waterproof to 33 feet-deeper than you may ever go. With 10.1 mega pixels, magazine-quality photos are a click away, even if you're out in the storm. Want video too? With a micro SD card, you can capture 4GB's-worth of action with YOUR HEAD UNDER WATER! Cost \$350. Check it out at <http://www.olympus.com>.

And what have I asked Santa for? I want a Digital HERO 3 so I can take high quality video with sound; with the camera strapped to my wrist or at the end of my canoe paddle! This camera has a 3 Meg. Sensor with a glass lens, 3x sequenced photo burst, always on mode lasts 3+ hours and it's made for easy shooting. I would use a 2 GB SD card even at 100' depth thru that water housing lens, but of course my head would be flatter than a pancake, but Shirley could still enjoy the shots of the Great White Shark with his mouth around my head! Price \$139.99 MSRP. <http://www.goprocamera.com>. Anyone seen my old Leica? It's snowing!

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Beginners Corner – Basic Tools for Better Photography

Digital Photo Exposures

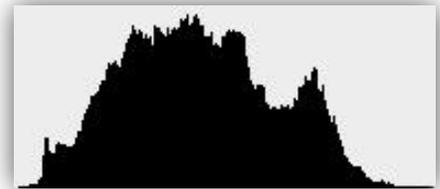
Using Your Camera's Histogram

Text and Graphs by Sue Barthelow

Want to get the right exposure for your digital camera pictures? Try using your camera's histogram display to view your photo's tonal range. The histogram will indicate whether you should adjust your settings and take another shot. Check your camera's manual to find out how to view a histogram and how to change the camera's settings.

The histogram shows you a graph of your photo's range of light. The horizontal axis represents the brightness values, going from black on the left (brightness value of 0) to white on the right (brightness value of 255). The vertical axis shows the number of pixels in the photo that have the corresponding brightness values (0 to 255).

For ideal photos taken in the best lighting conditions, the high points in the graph are near the center. The heights fall in both directions, extending to the left and right edges while not running off the graph's edge. A graph like this indicates that the photo's exposure is optimal, with great midtones and a range of light that captures everything from black to white.



Good Exposure



Underexposed

A graph that has brightness values running off the left edge or that has its high points well left of the center indicates that the photo is underexposed. You'll get a better photo by taking another shot after adjusting your camera settings to let more light in. You can do any of the following: 1) Lower the f-stop to give you a larger diaphragm. 2) Slow down your shutter speed

to keep the shutter open longer. 3) Raise your ISO to make the sensor more sensitive to the light. If your exposure is only slightly off, you can lower the f-stop by increments of less than a full stop using exposure value compensation.



Overexposed

A graph that has brightness values that run off the right edge or one that has its high points right of the center indicates that the photo is overexposed. In this case, you'll get a better photo by adjusting your camera settings to keep some of the light out. You can do any of the following:

1) Raise the f-stop to give you a smaller diaphragm. 2) Raise your shutter speed to decrease the amount of light that enters the lens. 3) Lower your ISO to make the sensor less sensitive to the light. If your exposure is only slightly off, you can raise the f-stop by increments of less than a full stop using exposure value compensation.

Note: The changes mentioned above are not the only things you can do to affect a photo's exposure. Your selected metering mode (matrix, center-weighted, spot) and the area you meter on both affect the exposure information. Most filters lower the amount of light that passes through the lens and help when you have an overly bright scene. When you have an overly dark scene, you can use a flash. Lastly and possibly the most important for outdoor photos, the time of day drastically affects the available light. Check your histogram to see how any changes you make affect your photo's exposure.

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*Bodie Pool Hall –
Mike Schumacher*

Cold Weather Clothing

by Bruce Gregory

Jim White is going to talk on preparations for cold weather photography. If you looking for outdoor clothing and gear try: Cabelas, www.Cabelas.com (try their "bargain cave" for deals), L.L.Bean Co, www.llbean.com (look for "sale" in the left column), and REI, www.REI.com or the store across from Roseville's Galleria, near EXPO.

Cabelas and L.L. Bean carry tall sizes. Look carefully to see that the item you're interested in is one for "outdoor performance", and not just a fashion statement.. Check out the insulation on jackets, type of fabric, etc. I've done business with all three of these companies for years and have found them reliable.

Sierra Trading Post www.sierratradingpost.com (closeouts and seconds) Top quality stuff with cosmetic blemishes mixed in with fashion items. If they have your size, prices are great. Retail Store in Reno.

Bruce

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Gray Snow

by Mike Schumacher

Do your shots of a snowy winter wonderland turn out gray? Here's something that may help. A digital camera's metering system exposes for middle gray. So if you meter bright snow, you get middle gray snow. Here's what I do, I set my exposure compensation for +1 or +1 1/3. When you take a picture it is vital that you check your histogram. You want it to come close to the right side. If it doesn't, crank up the exposure compensation. If you are clipping on the right side (tall spikes) crank it down. Another thing that helps is to set a custom white balance. Take a picture of open snow, be careful of shadows, and use that as a custom white balance. Another thing that will help is shooting in raw. Snow reflectance will vary on overcast and sunny days. A sunny day will have lots of contrast whereas an overcast day will have soft even lighting. Use your histogram!



Gold Beach Sunset – Mike Schumacher

The Photographic Society of America

By Mike Schumacher

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is a national organization with chapters throughout the country. Our local chapter which covers most of northern California is the Gold Rush chapter. The Gold Rush chapter of PSA meets quarterly in Sacramento. The meetings are usually from 9am to 4pm (approx). There are guest speakers that are educational and entertaining. Members can bring prints to have them reviewed.

At the past meeting on Sunday the 7th the speakers were:

Photography and the challenges of Arctic Photography - Joe Decker

Journeys in Latin America - Jim Cline

Secrets of Successful Travel Photography – Jim Cline

Desert Photography – Herb Spencer

The presenters gave examples and presented ideas and techniques. It was most informative and I was so impressed that I joined PSA and will be attending future meetings. There are some very talented photographers in the Gold Rush chapter of PSA. Most Gold Rush members are members of their local camera club so many different camera clubs are represented at Gold Rush.

Membership is open to anyone , but you don't have to be a member to attend the meeting. Here are two links to PSA and Gold Rush. The quarterly meeting are called Gold Rush in this area.

<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

<http://www.psagoldrush.org/>

When you hear us talking about Gold Rush now you know what it's all about!

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FOR SALE

TOKINA AT-X 340 AFII SD APO LENS FOR NIKON

This is the hard-to-find, highest quality, AT-X “gold ring” version of the Tokina 100-300mm f/4, Auto-Focus II, Nikon mount zoom lens in very near-mint condition. I acquired this lens from a professional who took meticulous care of it and I have continued that effort. All lens operations are perfect while both the glass and aperture blades are flawless. It's a beauty!

Primary features include:

- The versatile 100-300mm focal range is perfect for portraits and telephoto close-ups as well as compressed/extracted scenics and bringing in distant subjects at the long end.
- The AFII system is quicker and quieter than its predecessor.
- The lens utilizes special low-dispersion (SD) glass to reduce flare and hazing.
- This is an apochromatic (APO) lens for clean colors and crisp focus.
- The maximum f/4 f-stop remains constant throughout the zoom range providing excellent speed. No slowing at the longer focal lengths like so many other zooms.
- The lens utilizes internal focusing so the front element does *not* rotate. Adjustable filters (polarizer, graduated/split neutral density, etc.) stay the way you set them.
- Internal zooming is incorporated as well so the lens does *not* change physical length (and thus center of gravity) as you run up & down through the focal lengths.
- With the built-in, smooth as silk, tripod collar this lens changes quickly and solidly from horizontal to vertical framing orientation and back without moving your tripod head or upsetting your tripod/head balance. Detents tell you when you've rotated exactly 90°.
- Rock solid construction. It just “feels” right.

The lens comes complete with:

- Original front and rear caps.
- Original MH-774 all-metal hood. This hood can be screwed into a mounted polarizer filter and rotated to adjust the polarization while still shading the front of the lens as well as protecting it. Very convenient.
- Original unused Tokina custom fitted case with unopened strap.
- Original unopened lens strap.
- Original box and packing material, (even the original silica packs).
- Bonus: Promaster 77mm, Digital, Multi-Coated, UV filter & case.

I'm looking to get \$350 for the entire package. (One of the few I've seen on eBay recently sold for \$400 with 16 bidders. I'd prefer to get this into the hands of a fellow Auburn/Sacramento area photographer, so eBay can wait.)

One more thing to consider: Coupled with your DX-format, Nikon (or Fuji) digital camera, this lens becomes a **150-450mm constant f/4** zoom! That's even more impressive reach & speed.

Please contact Richard Myren at 530-268-3475 or rgjk@suddenlink.net.

I'll be bringing the lens to the next few Placer Camera Club meetings (Nov. 18, Dec. 16, etc.) so please feel free to bring your Nikon camera body and give the lens a spin.



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*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*

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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.

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

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Placer Camera Club Webpage

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

<http://placercameraclub.org>

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