

placer color

Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club



Year 48 Number 2

PO Box 4990, Auburn, Ca. 95603

February 2010

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<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

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!**

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

This month.....

We have **image evaluations**. The judge will be **Tal Lewis**. If you are entering digital projected please send your images to me no later than Tuesday the 16th at noon.

Image evaluations now combine **prints** and **projected** images. Each member is able to enter 4 images in any category. This will give members who don't enter the print evaluations a chance to participate in more evaluations. You can enter 4 images in prints, projected or a combination of both, but only a total of 4 per evaluation. This will give us more time for feedback from the judge and will help us improve our photographic skills.

Our **March** meeting's **theme** will be **weather**. Now is the time to get out and get some of those great weather shots, we've had a bunch of nice skies lately! See Sue Barthelow's article 'Expressions of Weather' in this issue.

Our **snow trip** this year will be on March 20th. See Jim White's article 'Snow Adventure' in this issue for details.

Barry Walton will be presenting a Photoshop **Lightroom** class (2 hrs) and a separate (1 hr) talk on photographing and travel in Tanzania. The presentations will be at the **Goldrush** meeting in Sacramento at the Red Lion on Arden Way, Sunday March 7th, 9am. Goldrush is the local chapter of the Photographic Society of America and meets 4 times a year. Visitors are welcome.

Event Calendar

February 16

Monthly meeting
Image evaluations
Projected & prints

March 16

Monthly meeting
Theme is **weather**
Photography question &
answer forum

April 20

Monthly meeting
Image evaluations
Projected & prints

May 18

Monthly meeting
Image evaluations
Projected & prints
Annual entries due

June 15

Monthly meeting
Annual awards
Theme is **sinuous**



*See last page for club
officers & committees*

Photographing the West Slope of the Sierra

By Jim L. White

Recently I was asked about the best spots to photograph the west slope of the Sierra in the winter. Here are two spots I like.

1. Highway 88 just west of the Carson Spur. This would be looking north between Silver Lake and Caples Lk. There is a great view area along this area looking due north directly at the snowy Crystal Range, featuring Pyramid Peak and Mt. Ralston. Just below you in this area is the Silver Fork of the American River which flows out of Caples Lake. There is no better area to view the Crystal Range and just at sunrise it is awesome. After shooting this area you might want to continue up to Caples Lk. and shoot to the east-south-east and Round Peak. It will be the highest peak looking in that direction from Caples. Many other places to shoot along this route so if you want to spend the day head east along 88 and have dinner (or lunch) at Sorenson's Resort, just down 88 from Pickets Junction. Great food and a great place to spend the night too. Reservations needed to stay. A good travel route would be to go from Auburn to Folsom-highway 50 east to Latrobe Rd. follow that to highway 16 and follow the signs to Jackson. Turn east on highway 88 and you are on your way. Do not try the Mormon Emigrant Trail near Sly Park this time of year since it is closed by snow. There is a shorter way via Omo Ranch but I think you will get lost so to be safe go to Jackson.

2. A shorter trip would be to go east up I 80 past Emigrant Gap to the Laing Rd. Take the Laing road off-ramp go under the highway and go back toward the Gap. Before you get to the Gap turn off to the right to the large view-parking area over-looking Bear Valley. Shoot north-east and photograph the Black Buttes and Grouse Ridge area. I like them just after a heavy snow-fall just at sunrise.

These are two good winter spots to shoot the west slope of the Sierra when shooting from a vehicle. There are a number of other good spots after the roads melt off in the early spring. I will volunteer to lead a snow trip this March in Bear Valley for short snowshoe walks to shoot along the Discovery Trail and the Bear River west of highway 20. This would be a new area for the club and would be only for those on snowshoes. Jim

SNOW ADVENTURE

Come with us for some fun in the snow and take some beautiful pictures while you are hiking in our clean mountain air.

Our snow trip this year will be on Saturday **March 20th** in Bear Valley along the Bowman Lake road. This will be a snowshoe walk along part of the PG&E Discovery Trail with the trail bridge and scenic views along the Bear River our subjects. If you need to rent, snowshoes are available at the Snow Mountain shop at 13479 Bowman Rd., phone 530-887-8636, near the bowling alley and Maria's Mexican restaurant. You can pick them up on Friday evening and return them Saturday afternoon, all for \$15.00. I recommend you pick up a pair of ski-poles too which will help you along the trail, and I use mine as a mono pod for my camera.

We will meet at 7:30 AM at Mom's Restaurant in Colfax for breakfast and re-group at the trail-head by 9:00 AM. Car pool if possible since parking is limited.

This will not be a long hike, you can return to your car at any time since they will be nearby. Bring a bag lunch, snacks and drinks and we will have lunch at the cars.

Please dress for the occasion and if you have questions please call or E mail me. Please also RSVP me by March 19 if you are going. Occasional snow flurries will not cancel the trip, but only make it better.

Jim White



Notes from the Field

By Ardath Winterowd

SMILE PRETTY FOR THE CAMERA!

I took this photo through my art studio window last week.

There are about 10 black-tailed deer in the herd that beds down in my little Oak forest down the hill. They graze on my property in the morning before moving onto the open 20 acres further down the hill and across the creek. I've lived here for 31 years and this is the first time I've photographed them...better late than never!

She's a young one, born last spring and looks like she's smiling...so sweet. Her twin has little velvet bumps on his head already.

ARDATH WINTEROWD



Composition

Including a Visual Entrance

by Sue Barthelow

Photos that draw viewers into the image seem to put out the welcome mat. The bottom of the photo can be an ideal place to provide a visual entrance into your scene. It acts like a doorway, a path, an opening, and it pulls the eyes inward.

One of my early photos, although well received at a club evaluation, bothered me. It is a photo of Guanajuato, Mexico taken from a hillside above the main plaza. I included the weedy strip at the edge of my hillside perch in order to put the view in context. What always bothered me is the dark edge along the bottom of the photo. It stopped me visually by catching my attention and making me jump over it to get into town.

My study of composition has shown me why I dislike that dark edge and how I can improve my photo by cropping a bit off the bottom. In the cropped image, notice how the lighter bottom left corner serves to open a visual doorway into the rest of the image. Another benefit is that by being towards the side of the image, it serves to make the photo a bit more dramatic.

You can use this technique with almost any type of image that doesn't get overly close to your subject. Move around your scene and view it from different directions and heights before choosing your shots. Take a set of photos making use of the differences in direction and height so you don't miss what you may decide later is the best of the bunch. Study your group of images to see what works and what doesn't work. Learn from experience what you like and then grow your skills and techniques from that.



Expressions of Weather

by Sue Barthelow

The photographic **theme** for our **March 16** evaluation meeting is *weather*. February and March are great months to capture storms, clouds and everything winter. So, don't forget to keep your eyes open and your mind free so you can capture some photos for this evaluation. Think about what weather means to you. As always, we encourage thinking outside the box and creatively interpreting our themes.

Our theme evaluations are lead by a club member with the attendees participating in the discussions. Richard Myren has done a fantastic job leading the group in the past and will hopefully continue to entertain us with his dynamic style.

As with most of our evaluation categories, you may make only basic adjustments to your image. Feel free to adjust brightness and contrast, to correct colors, to dodge and burn, to sharpen and to crop. However, adding or removing objects, applying artistic filters and otherwise making major adjustments to your image are not allowed. Enter no more than **2** color and/or monochrome images in a **projection** format only. E-mail your digital photos to Mike Schumacher being sure to give Mike plenty of time to receive them and to move them to the club computer. If you're entering slides, please bring them to the meeting.

So, watch the weather for photo ops over the next month and see what you can find to share with the group.

Here's a Nice Tip from Bruce Gregory.

Byways.org is the site of **America's Scenic Byways**. The below link is to their request a byways map page. If you fill out the form you will receive a free, very nice, booklet 124 pages long that illustrates scenic byways in most states.. It's a bargain... provided by you for you.. there is also a link on the site to other organizations scenic byways like the Forest Service, etc..

http://www.byways.org/map_request.html

Do yourself a favor & fill out the form..

Bruce

For Sale

Canon Eos 20d digital slr with 18-55mm kit lens. \$400 b/o
Contact Tony Middleton at 916-630-1487 or shutterbugtm@live.com

WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR IN PHOTOS

You're probably wondering why we pick one image over another; there actually are some simple rules of photography we look for in each photo. Common mistakes are:

(1) A photo out of focus, either the whole photo or part of it in an important location such as the bottom front of the print

(2) Too much "clutter" in the picture. We want our attention to go directly to the subject, not see a lot of competing, but not necessary, clutter around it.

(3) Exposure - is the picture too light or too dark to easily see the subject.

(4) Poor lighting, a "flat" image where rocks, subject, sky, etc. all blend together without different shadows, colors, etc. or the opposite where the sun might bleach out the lighter parts of the image, giving no texture to those areas.

There are other more subtle criteria we look for; placement of the subject, size of the subject within the image, etc. but the 4 listed above are the first and foremost most commonly seen, easily correctible problems that usually cause a photo to be eliminated.

For more specific guidelines, please feel free to drop in on any of our Placer Camera Club meetings and ask questions! We have meetings the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 at the Beecher Room in the Library off Nevada Street. We have short programs, critique our own images, have "how-to" presentations and to end it all, great desserts!!



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Kristi Middleton

Greeters & Badges

Jim Bennett

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.