



# placer color



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Volume 45 Number 1 **Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club** Jan 2007 **Since 1952**

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Member Delta Council, Gold Rush Chapter, Photographic Society of America (PSA)

**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, **Jan 16, 2007** at 7:00 PM.

This month we will have a presentation by **Jim White** on **Snow Country Photography**. Here's Jim's outline.....

1. How to keep warm and dry in a cold hostile environment.
2. Clothing and foot travel equipment for snow country travel.
3. Camera and photo equipment care and use in the cold and snow.
4. What to photograph in snow country.



The program will include a short slide program on high mountain snow photography. I will use exhibits of clothing, and other equipment in the program. During the break, people will be able to handle and inspect some of the equipment.

It's that time of year again...**camera club dues**. Since the club breaks in July and August we are in the process of changing the club to a Sept to June format. Yearly dues are \$25. For this change over dues will be half, reflecting the Jan to June time frame with full dues due in Sept. **Dues will be \$12.50 for this period only**. Members who joined in **Sept 06** or later **owe nothing** at this time. Dues can be paid at the Jan meeting or you can send a check to our treasurer Shirley White 3835 Bell Rd. Auburn, Ca. 95603 .

The **2007 Gladding McBean** photography workshop schedule is out. For information on the workshop go to the **Placer Camera Club website** and click on **news**.

<http://webspaces.ftcnet.net/radioman/>

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## Cold Weather Clothing

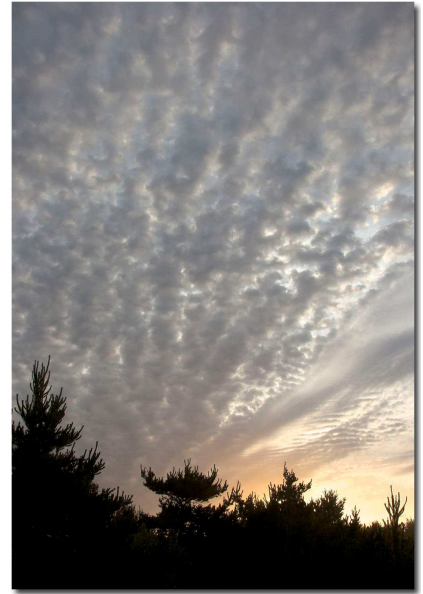
by Bruce Gregory

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](http://www.Cabelas.com) (try their "bargain cave" for deals), L.L.Bean Co, [www.llbean.com](http://www.llbean.com) (look for "sale" in the left column), and REI, [www.REI.com](http://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](http://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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## Shooting the West – a weekend photo conference in Winnemucca Nevada

I received several 'heads up' on what sounds like a fun and informative conference.

From **Wes Schultz**...

There is a weekend photo conference I attended a while ago that was GREAT! You may know about it. 'Shooting the West' held in Winnemucca, NV. This year it is March 16-18. The total cost is \$85 for the 2-1/2 days. I have paid a lot more and gotten a lot less. Go to [www.winnemucca.nv.us](http://www.winnemucca.nv.us) for more information. It's put on by the city of Winnemucca and Range Magazine. A little ranch and landscape photography, how to stuff and product

information. For a nominal fee, \$5 I think, you can hang up to 2 photos in the gallery. Well worth the money and fun. Wes

From **Jim White**...

Hi guys: Take a look at this years offering from Range Magazine and their Shoot the West photo conference at Winnemucca, Nevada , March 16th to 18. Bruce and Judy attended last year. Bruce perhaps you could tell us what you thought about last year's conference and what you think of this years agenda. Jim

[http://shootthewest.com/Pages/shooting\\_the\\_west\\_xix\\_schedule.htm](http://shootthewest.com/Pages/shooting_the_west_xix_schedule.htm)

And from **Bruce Gregory**....

I really enjoyed last year's conference. It's held in an auditorium with good projection facilities. Free coffee & donuts in the AM. There's a trade show out in the hall with real camera people in the booths, also books & authors. University of Nevada Press was there last year with lots of good books.

Elizabeth Carmel will tell you about self-publishing her Brilliant Waters book, she'll probably have some for sale. It's done with a digital back on a Hassablad.. Robert Holmes is getting a whole afternoon..he should be good..Richard Menzies is crazy (fun crazy), he also talked last year. Huntington Witherill is well known he too should be good..and that's just Friday !!

Lauren Davis on Saturday should be desert specific..Her book White Heart of the Mojave was praised by my schoolteacher/historian friend from the desert trip. Bob Rosenquist on Sunday will tell you about marketing images, and The Boise Camera Club will tell you how to improve your local camera club..



There's others that will be interesting I just picked these out first.. Last year's "field trip" was a shoot at an eccentric's desert house about 10 miles west of Winnemucca right on I80..done after noon on Sunday..people had to get home, storms were

threatening Donner Pass, etc. That shoot didn't sound like too big of a deal.

Some people from Gold Rush made their own field trip and arranged to shoot Fly Geyser in Gerlach on the way home..Depends how much time you want to spend out there. Judy & I went a day early because of possible storms then shot to the north of Winnemucca in Paradise Valley..nice rural area & an old small town.

I'll probably go..I know Judy's thinking about it too. You'll be surprised at what comes up in the talks, there's time for questions & topics cover a lot of ground.. Get your rooms early, unless you don't mind staying at a casino, the "motels" fill up quick..

I think the convention's worthwhile..Oh yes, there's always "networking" to meet other photographers and get ideas..

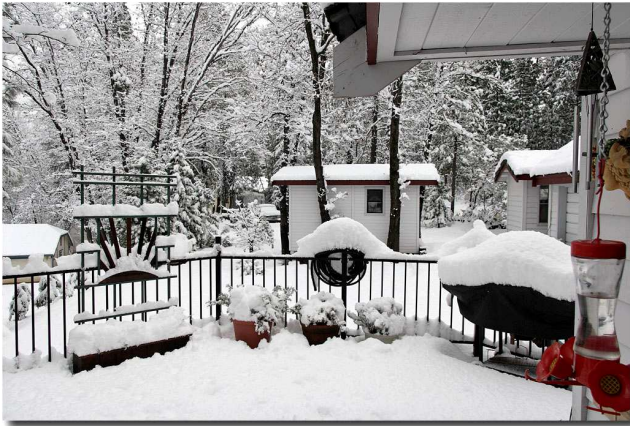
Bruce

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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. I 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 even lighting. Use your histogram!

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## What is a Histogram?

by Mike Schumacher

A histogram is the representation of values of light in an image. There are 256 values from 0 to 255 with 0 being pure black and 255 being pure white. It's like a plot, values run from black on the left to white on the right and the higher the display from bottom to top the more of that value. Middle gray is in the middle of the graph. When you look at a histogram and see the display bunched up against the left side, your image contains a lot of dark light values and is most likely under exposed. Likewise if it's bunched up against the right side you are most likely over exposed and have blown out the highlights. Most of the time you want a display that is not bunched up against either side. This will allow open shadows and detail in the highlights. A histogram is one very good way to adjust exposure in the field and in the digital darkroom. Most digital cameras and image editing programs have a histogram display.

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## Beginner's Corner

### An Introduction to F-stop and Shutter Speed

by Mike Schumacher

Two terms you will hear are f-stop and shutter speed. They have to do with the amount of light the lens will supply to the film or digital chip. **Shutter speed** is the amount of time the shutter in the lens will stay open, **f-stop** is the amount of light the lens will let in while the shutter is open. Shutter speed is measured in fractions of a second and for longer exposures in seconds or even minutes. Most common shutter speeds are  $1/15^{\text{th}}$  of a second to  $1/500^{\text{th}}$  of a second. Common f-stops range from f1.8 to f22. The smaller the number the larger the opening for light to enter. An exposure of f1.8 at  $1/250^{\text{th}}$  would let more light in than f16 at  $1/250^{\text{th}}$ .

**Depth of field** is the area from near to far that is in focus. Smaller f-stop numbers (larger opening) will have a smaller depth of field. If you are making a portrait of a person and want just the person and not the background in focus (shallow depth of field) you would use a smaller f-stop number probably f2.8 – f5.6. If you were doing a landscape and wanted everything in focus from near to far (large depth of field) you would use a large f-stop number probably f11- f16.

Shutter speed will control blur. Fast moving subjects require a fast shutter speed. A portrait would not need a fast shutter speed, you might want that shallow depth of field

but remember....small f-stop = more light., so.....

→ The amount of light available will now dictate what shutter speed can be used for proper exposure. ←

As you can see from the above example the amount of light available will dictate the shutter speed / f-stop combinations that can be used. Which combination you use will depend on what you are trying to take a picture of. A fast moving car, a landscape, a flower? Is it high noon in summer or late evening in winter? Shallow depth of field or large depth of field?

As you can see f-stop and shutter speed are very inter related.

Next month more on f-stop's and shutter speeds and how they can be manipulated.

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*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)*

### 2006 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 – Shirley White	530-885-8511	<a href="mailto:padhorski@infostations.net">padhorski@infostations.net</a>
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@cwnet.com">kwyatt@cwnet.com</a>
Newsletter – Mike Schumacher		

### Internet Web Sites of Interest

<a href="http://webspace.ftcnet.net/radioman/">http://webspace.ftcnet.net/radioman/</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 Jan 16th at 7:00 PM!**

