



placer color



Volume 45 Number 7

Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club

Sept 2007

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<http://www.placercameraclub.org>

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Placer Camera Club

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Newsletter

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Refreshments

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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, **Sept 18, 2007**. Informal gathering at **6:30** with the meeting starting **promptly at 7 PM**.

This month we will have a presentation by photographer **Steve Chandler**. Steve likes to photograph the vastness of the land and produces large panoramas. He is in the process of moving from the Nevada desert to Auburn and will discuss transition photography. When one's life is in transition, from where do you draw inspiration? He hopes to provoke creativity through a group discussion. Come and get inspired! Here is a link to his website.

<http://chandlerphotos.com/>

Also this month **Jim Bennett** has a short presentation on his trip to **Tuscany**. We are looking forward to this Jim!

Gold Country Fair

We had a good representation of club members at the fair this year. See the review by **Sue Barthelow** later in the newsletter. **Bring** your **fair entries** to the meeting to share with other members!

Auburn Art Walk

The club will be participating in the Auburn Art Walk on Oct. 11th. All members are encouraged to submit photo's for display. Contact Mike Schumacher for more info, 367-4505.

Camera Club Dues

Sept will be the start of our new calendar year at the club. As you may remember we paid half dues in Jan 07 so we could change the start of our year to Sept to better reflect the break we take in July and August.

Regular yearly dues of \$25 single, \$40 couple, and \$15 junior are now due.

See our treasurer Judy Hooper (530-888-8308) at the meeting or give her a call.

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Fall Raptor Migration

by Sue Barthelow

The annual fall raptor migration has started. A trip over to the Marin Headlands is your best bet for capturing them with your camera. The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory's hawkwatch site is the place to go. Visit their web page http://enature.com/outdoors/hawkwatch/hw_chart_02.asp for a chart showing the fall timeframes for the best viewing of 12 raptor species. Also visit the Golden Gate Raptor by clicking on the Hawk Hill Map link.

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Placer Camera Club Picnic

August 5, 2007

By Tony Middleton

Photos by Karen Wyatt, Jim White and Dave Potter

This year's picnic was hosted by Karen Wyatt at her wonderful property on the outskirts of Auburn. The day was warm with a nice breeze and made for a perfect outdoor get together.



The fare was potluck consisting of some really great food! There were beef skewers, a chili casserole, Hawaiian pork ribs, and Bonnie's enchiladas. Bruce brought Tomato Tarts that were very tasty. There were salads and a veggie tray, chips and dip, and of course no picnic would be complete without the assortment of deserts including Shirley's awesome brownies.



The day really 'heated up' when the Bocce Ball sets appeared on the back lawn. By day's end nearly everyone at the picnic had a chance to play. The 'Shifty Sicilian' (Jim B) enlisted Howard as a teammate and got the ball rolling against Mike S. and Tony, aka 'The Hawaiian'.



Next up were Richard and 'No Balls' (Bob) who took on Judy and Karen who's German Shepherd took interest in the scoring. Needless to say, Karen and Judy held the court for that round. Then it was back to Jim and Bob who fell to Tami and Alicia. The final match of the night was Tami and Alicia against Lee and Tony. The ladies held a strong lead going into the final throws when the guys scored 5 straight points to end the match. Amidst good natured heckling and lots of fun the time came to clean up and call to a close another Placer Camera Club Picnic.



Thank you to all who participated in making this another great outing. Thanks again to Karen for sharing her home (and fruit) with all who attended. See you all in September at the first meeting of the season.

Tony aka 'The Hawaiian'

P. S. We are all looking forward to "Shifty's" slide show of the time he spent in Tuscany,

And Jim thanks for being such a good sport

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Gold Country Fair

Showcase of Photography

by Sue Barthelow

The 2007 Gold Country Fair drew to a close after awarding 20 ribbons to 8 Placer Camera Club members. Special congratulations go to Mike Schumacher for taking home the Best of Show ribbon for his “Hope Valley Cabin”.

Member Awards

Best of Show

Place awards 10 out of 30

1st place 3 out of 10

2nd place 4 out of 10

3rd place 3 out of 10

Honorable Mention awards 9 out of 16+

Sue Barthelow

2nd place Color Animal - “Who Needs a Hammock?”

Honorable Mention Color Animal - “I Didn’t Do It”

Honorable Mention Color Still Life - “The Garden Beckons”

Judy Hooper

2nd place Alternate Photography Series - “Bull Rider”

Kristi Middleton

2nd place Alternate Photography Non-Traditional – “Blooming Calla”

Wes Schultz

2nd place Color Portrait - “Jesse”

3rd place Black & White Portrait - “Batt. Chief – CDF Fire”

Honorable Mention Color Portrait - “Honey”

Honorable Mention Color Animal - “Cat”

Honorable Mention Color Still Life - “Working at Sunset”

Mike Schumacher

1st place and Best of Show Color Landscape - "Hope Valley Cabin"

1st place Alternate Photography Non-Traditional - "Cape Blanco"

3rd place Color Still Life - "Old Water Truck"

Honorable Mention Black & White Landscape - "Coquille River Sky"

Honorable Mention Color Landscape - "Bear River Scene"

Jim L. White

1st place Black & White Landscape - "Foresthill Oak"

3rd place Color Portrait - "Tarahamara Mother & Child"

Shirley White

Honorable Mention Color Portrait – "Freestyle Kayaker"

Karen Wyatt

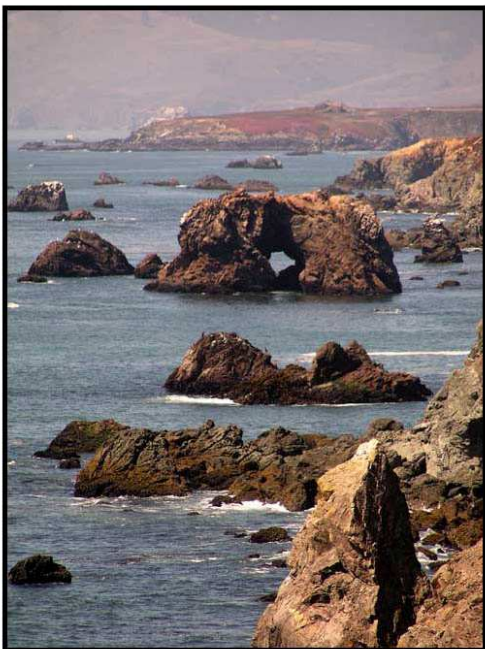
Honorable Mention Black & White Landscape - "Coastal Walnut Grove"

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Sonoma Coast State Beach

Text & Photos by Sue Barthelow

With a lingering savor of fish tacos, I climbed into the car at Bodega Bay and headed north. The late August day was clear, still and warm, perfect for a coastal photo shoot. Although the day had started with an empty digital camera, it was early afternoon and the camera already held 22 images of Bodega Bay. By the end of the day, I was glad to be carrying an extra memory chip.



Highway 1 crossed Salmon Creek and continued along a popular surfing beach. After passing the surfers, I pulled over at most of the sign-posted pull-offs. Views facing north from between Miwok Beach and Schoolhouse Beach were outstanding as were the

vignettes created by the mostly uninhabited beaches that lay in the abundant protected coves. Seen from above, gentle waves left satiny azure streaks across the sand.

With 50 pictures taken, I finally approached my prime destination – the mouth of the Russian River. Goat Rock Road ran the last few miles to Goat Rock Beach and Whale Point. One last on-the-bluffs viewpoint stopped me. I strolled over the grass-enveloped point to shoot south towards Arched Rock sitting off the shore and then north towards the mouth of the Russian River.



Finally at beach level, I parked at Goat Rock Beach and loaded up my gear for a long walk in the sand. Sea gulls swooped and pelicans glided back and forth from the point where the Russian River empties into the ocean. The grass-covered sand dunes surrounding the parking lot were fairly easy to navigate, but the sand that stretched seemingly forever between the parking lot and the water's edge was daunting. Once at the high water mark, walking on the wet sand was a bit easier.



Fourteen images later, I finally arrived at the point. Its festive atmosphere was visible as hundreds of birds spent the late afternoon either resting on the sandbar formed along the last stretches of the river or feeding in the swiftly moving water. About 50 harbor seals ignored the merry-makers as they napped in the sun along the up-river end of the sandbar. A humorous scene unfolded as brown pelicans dove into the river near the seals and then rode the undulating white-water

current through the shallows. They glided along as the current carried them downstream, many facing backwards as they repeatedly upended themselves to feed. Upon reaching the end of the shallow stretch of maybe 60 yards, the giant birds took to the air and flew back for another ride.

A fellow onlooker mentioned that many birds retreat upriver to Penny Island in mid-river to spend the night safely away from predators. The short walk along the river's shore was much easier than the trek out had been. A couple of driftwood tree trunks silently posed for a couple of shots. Penny Island's western tip provided excellent late afternoon/sundown photo opportunities as birds congregated for the night.

Sundown drew me back to the grassy dunes for my final set of pictures. The grass glowed yellow in the setting sun. The western edge of the nearly cloudless sky was set on fire. Soon, the offshore rock formations had turned dark against the twilight sky. Backlit pelicans headed for their roosts. I followed suit and headed for my car and the long drive home.



If you go, start from the south at Bodega Bay and drive northwards to Jenner. Although it forces you to cross the southbound lane to enter/exit the view points, it puts the sun at your back and provides well-lit views easily seen as you drive. Time your trip so you spend the last light of the day at Whale Point before you cross the Russian River. Unless you like to walk in the sand, head toward the river from the Goat Rock Beach parking lot and walk along the river out to the point. The river sand is much denser and makes for an easier trek. You can get a copy of the park brochure at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/451/files/SONOMACOASTSB.pdf>.

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Wanted...Richard Myren is in the market for a **Nikon** AF 200mm f/4 ED-IF Micro-Nikkor lens. Glass & interior must be scratch & dust/fungus free and all functions intact.

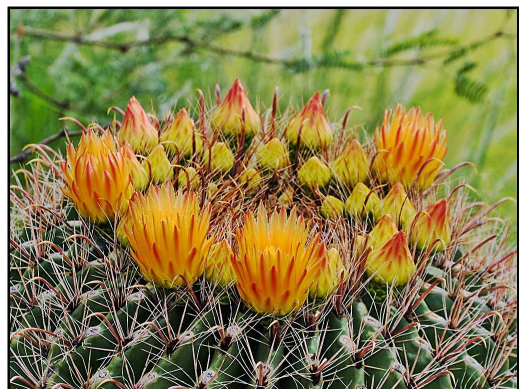
He can be contacted at rgik@earthlink.net or (530) 320-8961.

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Southern Arizona's Annual Monsoon

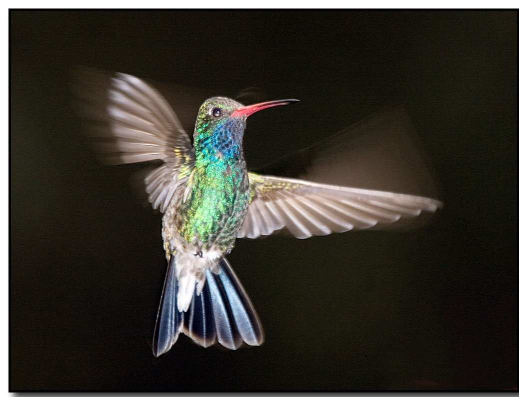
Text & Photos by Walt Carnahan

The annual monsoon in southeastern Arizona had covered the area with many storms and afternoon showers leaving it green and vibrant when we arrived in the middle of July.



The monsoon is the result of southern winds arising in the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico and funneling moisture over the border where it condenses into showers. These rains provide great opportunities for birding and some species such as Varied Bunting appear to delay breeding until the rains arrive along with the consequent higher insect populations.

Our Madera Kubo Cabin at Madera Canyon had a hummingbird feeder on the back porch and I took the opportunity to add my flash to the camera. I was using the 100-400 f5.6 lens with a 12 mm extension tube. Focusing this rig gave me some challenges and frequently I would focus on the feeder and hope that AF would follow the hummers off the feeder before they disappeared. These broad-billed hummers were all around and looked sharp with their black-tipped orange bills and green bodies.



I've been trying to get the hang of the extension tube this summer. It's a fantastic tool when used right. The focus is so slow and dependent on the lens's focal length that I don't use it to "walk around." But when there's a target I can fix on and take time with like the flowers on a barrel cactus I like the results it gives. I'm already regretting returning the 24 mm tube. Although,

the 12mm is definitely the one to learn with, I should have kept both of them



Kitt Peak National Observatory has a 49-year history of fundamental contributions to Astronomy and Astrophysics. There are nineteen optical telescopes on this Mountain just south west of Tucson. When I heard that I couldn't see any live images on the solar telescope, I decided to check out the 4 meter Mayall telescope, the biggest one there. Just as I started up the last path a fire alarm went off and I didn't get to see it either.

The old abandoned copper mining town of Ajo has become a "snowbird center" by renting out the company's miner's cabins to winter visitors. An evening storm took my light and the contrast from my picture of the empty pit.

Organ Pipe National Monument just twenty miles south was my goal. The pipe cactuses rise twenty to thirty feet from the desert floor, making pictures of the flowers on top a bit difficult to get. I had better luck with the desert birds like the cactus wren and black-capped gnatcatcher.



We ended our trip several days later at the Town of Portal, the Eastern entrance to the legendary Chiricahua Mountains. Towards evening, I put the 28-200mm lens



on and got some landscapes of Cave Creek Canyon. Even on the on the Eastern side of the mountains there was nice light, though the golden hour before sunset was way too dim.

Naturally, my favorites were some birds, like the Pyrrhuloxia we got at a private feeder on the way home.

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If you want to sell or are looking for photography related items you 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.

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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://www.placercameraclub.org>

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

Mike Schumacher (Newsletter) 530-367-4505 radioman@ftcnet.net

See you at the meeting Sept 18th at 7:00 PM!

