

# Bits & Pixels

January 2016

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## Competitive Field Trip to Capitola

Our trip to a blustery and dripping Capitola on January 17th was a hoot! Twenty or so hearty PTCC souls hit the soggy deck on a rainy Sunday in search of the perfect capture for our seven target categories. The little town had taken quite a beating from recent storms and high tides, evidenced by the debris-strewn beach, piled sandbags and muddy sidewalks. Did it stop us? Did it even slow us down? Heck no! The group lunch at the Stockton Bridge Grill, organized by Bill Shewchuk, was comfortable and tasty and came in the nick of time. After scouting and shooting, and dodging passing showers, some from as early as 6 AM, we were all ready. The fried calamari didn't stand a chance. Speaking of 6 AM... those early birds actually did get a little sunrise action! You have to put yourself out there! Each player will submit their best shot in each of the categories by the end of the month and the judges impressions and awards will be presented at our regular meeting on February 17th. Good luck to all!



### Inside

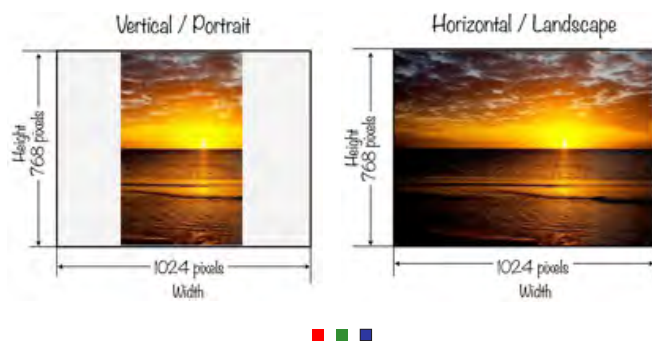
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Photos by **Janet Beaty (JB)**, **Ken Jones (KJ)**, and **Carmay Knowles (CK)**. Clockwise from top: *A Day Not for the Timid* - KJ; *Time for Lunch* (Rick Verbanec, Carol Fuessenich) - KJ; *At Lunch I* (Ken Jones, Silke Laetz) - CK; *At Lunch II* (Nelson Owen, Brooks Leffler) - CK; *Photogs Amid the Storm* (L to R: Jeff Hobbs, Chris Johnson, Carol Fuessenich, Ken Jones, Nelson Owen, Brooks Leffler) - CK; *Balancing on the Sand* (Jeff Hobbs) - CK; *Shooting in the Rain* (L to R: Jeff Hobbs, Ken Jones, Chris Johnson) - JB; *Staying Dry* (Ken Jones) - CK. Center photo: *Chowing Down* (L to R: Chris Johnson, Jeff Hobbs, Karen Schofield, Janet Beaty) - KJ.



## Confused About Image Sizing?

We're hearing from the image submission filters (those brave, yet unsung heroes who collect our competition images monthly and make sure each passes formatting muster) that there appears to still be some confusion about how to size images for submission, particularly our vertical, or portrait mode, images. Everybody knows the 1024x768 rule by now, but every now and then we'll get vertical images that are 1024 pixels on the vertical side instead of the maximum 768. Let this little graphic help you think about this a different way.



## My Two Bits

### *The Real Value of Skills Night*

Each of us, through our personal photographic evolution - from taking snap shots, to taking pictures, to composing and capturing an image, to molding that image into its best and most impactful form - has developed a body of know-how that we use, almost without thinking now, to create images that please us. Whether those images are made for a Club or other competition or simply for the fun of seeing our vision of a subject come to life on the screen or on the wall, we employ this know-how, this skill set, to make it happen. PTCC's periodic Skills Night presentations were conceived as a means of sharing some of our member's know how with the group as a whole. **Bill Shewchuk** has done a good job of bringing some of our members' skill sets to the group on Skills Night. We're each unique in how we approach this hobby of ours. Consider your own set of photographic skills and ask yourself if others in the Club would benefit from your sharing of some of them. If the answer is yes, let Bill know. Don't be shy, we're all in this together.

~ Take your lens cap off.

Ken Jones

## January Board Meeting Highlights

Your Board of Directors, consisting of Club elected officers and appointed activity chairs, met on **Saturday, January 16th** to review the year so far and firm up some actions going forward. Full minutes of the meeting are posted to Member Resources at our website but here are some highlights of interest.

- **Online Postings:** The Board approved changes to how we handle member's image online posting preferences. See this section on page 4.
- **March 12th Group Shoot:** A Group Shoot to Moss Landing / Elkhorn Slough was approved and has been scheduled. See details on page 5.
- **Next Year's Major Print Exhibit - Avery Gallery in Seaside - May 1 thru June 30, 2017:** The Board reviewed the time line for this event and discussed ideas for the show's look, feel and theme. No decisions were made and the exhibit will be on the agenda when the board meets again this April.
- **Year-End Venue Set:** The Board approved our return to the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula for our Year-End potluck and awards ceremony. The venue has been booked. The party will be held on **Saturday, November 5, 2016** from 5 PM to 9 PM. Mark your calendar today.
- **Empty Chairs:** The Board discussed the need for a "Mixed" competition chair. Vice President, John Drum, who is filling the slot now in addition to his role as Nature competition chair, will be developing candidates. **Bill Shewchuk**, our Greeter and program chair will be developing candidates for those positions as his plans will take him out of the area next year.

## Welcome 4 New Members

January brought us four new members:

- **Ray Wiberg** - Kathleen's hubby - a returning member, so welcome back!
- **Doug Rothnie** - Carmay's hubby - glad you've joined us!
- **Jan Langdon &**
- **Larry Langdon** - friends of John Drum - welcome aboard!



### In the Spotlight

**Jane Black** came to the Monterey Peninsula from Colorado in 1944. She grew up in Minturn, a tiny town about 100 miles east of Denver. After graduating high school in 1943 with a scholarship, Jane went to business college in Denver. Her parents rather suddenly moved to Salinas to help her brother, who had cut his fingers off in a planing mill accident. After finishing business college, Jane followed them and worked locally for the Farmer's Mercantile and the Red Cross.



Photo by Ken Jones

Not long after her arrival here in 1944, Jane's brother invited **Harold Black**, a mill friend, home for dinner. Jane says that's all it took! He courted her for about a year before they married and they had two children, **Connie** (also a PTCC member) and **Michael**. In 1961 they bought a 37 acre property high above Highway 68 near the western edge of Toro Park that came with a horse. Jane still lives there with Connie, a granddaughter, a great-grandson, three horses and one cat; Michael lives next-door. Harold died in December 2014.

Jane loves jig-saw puzzles, gardening, and she also belongs to a book group at her church. She had a movie camera and a little box camera when her kids were small. Around 1974, when Michael got out of the Air Force, Harold bought her a nice Kodak, but it broke when they went skiing and she whacked it on a ski. She bought a better one from Chuck Karnow in Salinas. A friend invited Jane to the Salinas Camera Club, where she eventually became President and was involved until they folded. Jane started coming to PTCC with friends from the Salinas Club and joined in about 1962. She says the club was "going great guns, then it made the change to digital and some people didn't want to give up their slides" at which time membership and spirit went way down. Jane served as Secretary from about 2001 until the club recovered from the digital switch. She also took care of bringing refreshments for 4-5 years and Harold made the wooden box that Chris J. still uses today. Over the years, when PTCC was a smaller group, Jane hosted several year-end dinners and summer barbecues at their 'ranch.'

Jane says the judging comments have helped her with photography, but, we haven't seen any of her images since the switch to digital! Apparently, although Jane helped the club through the switch, we haven't helped her. She has a computer (PC), but she doesn't understand the process of getting the images digitally submitted. Let's hope we can fix that!

### Shots & Spots

From **Chris Johnson**: "Here is something fun for members to go see and shoot. At Jacks Peak County Park, the red Amanita Muscaria mushrooms are emerging right now. The Park is open from 10 AM to 5 PM; there is a \$5 entrance fee. I found these mushrooms on the Jack's Peak Trail and shot them with my iPhone. Just keep your eyes open for the red tops and the ground pushing up. Watch out for poison oak also! "



Amanita Muscaria by Chris Johnson



### February Pictorial #2 Submission (Directed): Light

Our **February 28th, 2016** Pictorial #2: When plans for this year were being finalized, it was decided that one of the three pictorial competition this year would have a "Directed" element. At its meeting this month, the Board approved the element of "Light" for our Pict#2 which submits on February 28th. This concept was developed by pictorial competition chair, **Joni Zabala**, and our judge for this one, **Doug Steakley**. It is not about images wherein light is the subject or theme, rather where light is used to emphasize the main subject adding strength and impact. (See our **Tips & Tricks** column on page 4.) Should be enlightening!

## Tips & Tricks: The Importance of Light

Just in time for our February 2016 dedicated Pictorial competition, *Silke Laetz* found an article about Light by *Doug Steakley*. Doug points out that we need to be aware not only of the direction of the light -- back, side, front -- but how important the *quality* of light is in our images. An image taken in bright sunlight will produce high contrast or dynamic range, whereas one taken in the light of a soft fog might bring out the background and more even tonality. Doug states that it's always a good idea to shoot at sunrise or sunset, or when conditions are stormy, cloudy or foggy. He really likes to shoot during or just after a rain when the air is filled with moisture. He calls this "wet" light and says this is a good time to use a polarizing filter. He ends this article with a wonderful quote from *Galen Rowell*: "I almost never set out to photograph a landscape...My first thought is always of light."



*Doug Steakeley's images: left taken in bright sunlight; middle taken in soft fog; right taken at sunset with fog.*

To see more of Doug's beautiful images, visit his website: [douglassteakley.com](http://douglassteakley.com)



## February 2016 Look Ahead

On **Wednesday, February 3rd**, our meeting will feature *Richard Green* discussing Photo-journalism. Richard has been working as a photojournalist and wedding photographer in Monterey County for over 30 years and taught fine art photography at MPC. You can learn more about him and see some of his wonderful images at [richardgreenphotography.com](http://richardgreenphotography.com)

At our **February 17th** meeting we'll see the returns of our Capitola Competitive Field Trip competition. The Pictorial #2 submissions are due in your Group e-mail box by midnight, Sunday, **February 28th, 2016**.



## Changes To Our Image Posting Policy

We've not been able to establish a firm baseline on image posting to our website and Facebook and the information we have now is sketchy and in some cases incorrect. The Board approved an active opt-out policy for image posting preferences. The following may help you decide.

Winning images are posted to our website by competition. Images submitted for competition are posted to the Club's Facebook page in photo galleries by competition group. All images are posted at 72 ppi and generally no larger than 500 pixels on their long side.

Images posted to the website are attributed by accompanying text along with their place in the competition.

Images posted to our Facebook page are water-marked with the shooters name, as are the images projected during the returns, and also present any metadata description if present.

The images on the website and on our Facebook page do not enlarge or reproduce in any usable way.

Unless you actively opt-out of either of these, your images will be posted as indicated.

**If your intent is to opt-out**, notify membership chair, *Shelley Nemeth*, and your preference will be communicated to those who post to these two platforms.



## Padre Trails Camera Club

**Meetings:** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7-9 PM  
Hilltop Center, 871 Jessie St., Monterey  
831-646-3975

### 2015-2016 Officers:

President - *Ken Jones*  
Vice President - *John Drum*  
Secretary - *Janet Beaty*  
Treasurer - *Shelley Nemeth*

### Activity Chairs:

Awards & Hospitality - *Chris Johnson*  
Competitions - *John Drum & Joni Zabala*  
Judges - *Silke Laetz*  
Membership - *Shelley Nemeth*  
Newsletter - *Carmay Knowles*  
Points Accounting - *Carol Fuessenich*  
Programs - *Bill Shewchuk*  
Submission Review - *Brooks Leffler*  
& *Jared Ikeda*



## Capitola Field Trip (FT16) Submissions

Your Capitola Field Trip images are due to your submission email box by midnight, **January 31, 2016**. All submission rules apply except for file naming. Special file-naming rules for this event.

Build your filenames as follows:

ft16-your initials-category code.jpg

Example: ft16-abc-beach.jpg

Categories and their category (codes):

1. Architectural Detail (detail)
2. Beach Scene (beach) human or otherwise
3. Capitola Wharf (wharf)
4. Good Eats (eats)
5. RR Trestle (trestle)
6. Venetian Courts (courts)
7. Photographer's Choice (choice)

Good Luck!



## Group Shoot to Moss Landing / Elkhorn Slough Saturday, March 12, 2016

This is an amazing place to photograph! As part of the day, a two-hour, (9 AM - 11 AM) dedicated, flat-boat safari has been chartered that can accept up to 22 photographers. **A complete event fact sheet is up at Member Resources.** A sign-up sheet was circulated at our January 20th meeting and there are currently two (2) slots open. An alternate list has been opened and will be used

on a first-come, first-served basis in the event of individual cancellations. The cost if we have 22 sign ups is \$32/person. If you want to sign-up, please let Ken know ASAP at: [info@padretrailscc.org](mailto:info@padretrailscc.org).



Elkhorn Slough Photos by Ken Jones

## Bits & Pixels



## Jeff Nixon Photography Exhibit

An exhibition of the masterful darkroom imagery by *Jeff Nixon* will be at the Carmel Visual Arts gallery from **January 30th through February 20th, 2016**. A long time photographer and assistant to legends like *Morley Baer* and *Ansel Adams*, the gallery hopes you will join them to celebrate his exquisite work.

In addition to Nixon's silver prints, they will be exhibiting an installation of very small works by the women's photography group, FotoSága B in the spirit of Masao Yamamoto.

**Artists Reception:**

**Saturday, January 30th. 5 PM - 7 PM**

**Exhibition**

**January 29th-February 20th, 2016**



Cook's Meadow, Yosemite Valley by Jeff Nixon



## Editor's Corner

Many times, when members show prints or their digital images come up during returns, people will ask: "Where did you shoot that?" So we've introduced a new section this month called **Spots & Shots**. If you have a fun place to shoot and want to share and show some of your images, please send the info and images to me at: [info@padretrailscc.org](mailto:info@padretrailscc.org).

To help members get to know each other better, we'll be asking you to participate in an informal interview for our **In the Spotlight** section. Just share a bit about yourself in a nonthreatening phone interview. We're also seeking people who would like to contribute to the newsletter, either regularly or occasionally. Have an interesting item to share or have comments or suggestions? Please contact me. Thanks,

*Carmay Knowles, Editor*