

Cameraderie

Volume 138 Camera Club of Laguna Hills, California: Organized 1966 - www.lhcameraclub.com December, 2013

SPOTLIGHT on our MEMBERS

John Maloof

By *Mike Bray*




Mary-Rose and I had a chance to visit with John Maloof on November 11th, Veteran's Day. As I entered John's very comfortable home, I found him right where I expected to find him: seated in front of his computer, working on images in Photoshop!

Over the kitchen table, John captivated us with stories about growing up in Connecticut, his transition into adult life, and his eventual move to California. John is a modest storyteller, a devoted father, and a very talented artist as those who have seen his photographs can attest.

For most of his life, John stayed near his roots. Raised in New London, Connecticut, John attended Fordham University in New York and had nearly completed his studies toward a degree in chemistry when he received his draft notice. His military service in the Navy took him as far as Marseilles, France where John quipped "I got all the way to France, but never got to enjoy real French food!" The absence of good French cuisine was no doubt a circumstance due to the war, but the end of the conflict soon brought the grateful seaman home. John finished up his studies at Fordham, graduating with a degree in dairy science. He then spent the next 40 years plus as an ice cream distributor. Even with his business success, John's greatest pride resided in raising three daughters, who were recently at his side to celebrate his 89th birthday. He moved into Laguna Woods in 1995.

Where did John's artistic talent come from? We asked John this question, and were surprised by his answer. John's big interest in his early days was not photography, but music. He played the string bass (sometimes called a bass fiddle) and was part of a band for 14 years. His background in music, his flair in decorating at Christmas time, as well as Chinese brush painting classes are credited by John for developing his artistic streak that manifests itself in his photography.

John took beginning photography class from Kara Patterson in 1996. Around 2000, John joined the Camera Club and got one-on-one lessons

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President's Focus
By **Mac McNamar**

Endings and Beginnings

This year our Camera Club has seen tremendous growth in both membership and activities. Joel Goldstein and Chuck Eisenstein who respectively have led our Education program and provided the many outstanding Showcase and Speaker programs deserve much credit for this growth. Many thanks to Joel and Chuck for their enormous contributions to our club and our best wishes to both of them as they have elected to enjoy a less active role in the club for 2014.

A new team headed by George Harper and supported by Mike Bray is now assuming the Digital Exhibition Vice President's position (vacated by Chuck Eisenstein) and responsibilities. I'm confident we can look forward to continued high quality programs for our 2014 Monday evening events.

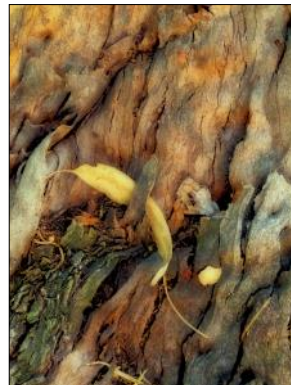
We are still looking to fill the position of Education Vice President for 2014. Consequently we currently have no individual or team to plan and coordinate Tuesday Workshops and classes in the Fred Granger Learning Center. As you have seen and probably benefited from those classes in the past, the club has provided excellent workshops and



John Maloof

— continued

in Photoshop Elements from Fred Granger. Don Hill also helped showing him the finer points of using Elements. Another coach, Gil Brenner, soon said John should be teaching others how to use Photoshop Elements! John's progression through Elements eventually took him into the full Photoshop program; John now uses CS 5. His other image editing is done with Nik software which he uses for special effects.



John Maloof's favorite subject: Flowers

John's current camera is a Panasonic Lumix. While he considers it his "go-to" camera, he also has a Canon EOS Rebel T2i. From the very start, John has enjoyed photographing flowers. He frequents Green Thumb and Farmer's Market for their floral offerings, and occasionally gets up to Roger's Gardens. When he takes a break from photographing flowers, John likes to go to Anthropology Dress Shop or Nordstrom's for window displays and general imagery. Unlike most of us at these types of venues, John usually receives a warm welcome when he approaches with a camera in his hand.

John admits to having a hard time giving advice, as he says "The end result is often an accident." He shared that "I get in there and start applying different filters, and I stop when it looks good. The important decision is knowing when to stop. Less is more."

John continues to take classes and to experiment with his images, always with the intent of improving his artistry, and serves as an impressive role model for us all!

President's Focus — cont'd

classes to help our members grow artistically and technically in their photographic endeavors. To maintain a thriving environment for our members' artistry, we want to create an *Education team*, similar to the current Cameraderie and Digital Exhibition teams. The Education team will plan and coordinate our educational activities so we may continue to serve our members and our village. If you want to be part of a dynamic team and contribute your ideas and talents at any level as an Education team member please call me at 949-768-5621 or send an email to macmcnamar@gmail.com.

As the holiday season approaches, we wish you peace, joy and bountiful photo opportunities. And let's work together to make 2014 another successful and memorable year.

Tech Corner — TIPS

- ◆ When using a tripod, turn off camera's Image Stabilization.
- ◆ In harsh sunlight, use pop-up flash as "fill light."
- ◆ Shoot Panorama vertically, the more frames the better.
- ◆ For night shots, remove the camera's UV filter.

Of Interest...

- ◆ "The Power of Photography: National Geographic 125 Years" exhibition at the *Annenberg Space for Photography*, through April 27, 2014
- ◆ "Abelardo Morrell: The Universe Next Door" exhibit at the *Getty Center*, through January 5, 2014

Location, Location, Location

The Hortense Miller Garden

2251 Allview Terrace, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
 (949) 497-0716 By appointment only
<http://www.hortensemillergarden.org/>

By *Jim Graver*

Plants: checked. Flowers: checked. Landscapes: checked. Mid-century architecture and furniture: checked. This is what the Hortense Miller Garden offers to photographers.

Established in 1959 and covering two and one half acres of upper slopes of Boat Canyon, the Hortense Miller Garden was well noted for its hillside location and a house with large windows looking out to the openness surrounding it. The garden encompasses a diverse range of plants and flowers that can be grown in Southern California coastal areas.

Swaying wisteria blooms in the spring as you enter the grounds and the colorful perennial garden beside the house. A sloping path takes you past fleshy leaves of succulents and you can be surprised by the variety of foreign species that live well in the California climate. The path takes you further past a wide variety of more plants and flowers, ocean vistas and panoramic views of the hills. No shortage of photo opportunities here. Hortense Miller personally cultivated these gardens from 1959 until her death in 2008. The house, still carrying her touch and artwork, is a classic modern design. Its rooms are spread out and open onto small, intimate and distinct garden spaces.

Don't miss the opportunity to visit the garden and home which are a perfect example of Southern California indoor/outdoor living. In addition, with only a limited number of people who can visit it at a time, the place is not crowded thus giving you plenty of time to set up and take your photos at leisure.

Photography by
Jim Graver



Are Smart Phones Replacing Compact Digital Cameras?

By *Bette Harper*

Digital cameras have improved considerably since they first appeared. Packed with more power and better functions, they offer easy tools for everyone to take good photographs.

While digital cameras are increasing in popularity and use with shipments peaking at 120 million in 2008, Samsung released its first camera cell phone in June of 2000. Sprint launched its own version, the Sanyo SCP-5300, in North America in November 2002. Although it captured shots at 0.3 megapixels, it had a flash, a digital zoom, and controls for white balance, as well as a self-timer. The quality and features available on cell phone cameras have increased so much that today many people are using their cellphones as their main camera. Offering even more competition to compact cameras, lenses have been developed specifically for iPhones and Android Phones. Photojojo offers a set of Fisheye, Telephoto, Wide Angle, and Macro lenses for \$49.00.

The advent of the social media sites Facebook and Flickr in 2004 followed by other social media sites like Twitter and Instagram, also enables the easy sharing of photos with friends and family online. Uploading a photo from a cellphone is a snap and because most people carry their cell phones all the time, they take more photos, share more of them



online, and develop more interest in photography in general. The release of the first generation iPhone in June of 2007 hastened the decline of digital compact cameras. Last year the iPhone 4 became the most popular camera on Flickr, significantly ahead of the second place Nikon D90. This year the top three cameras on Flickr are the iPhone 4S, iPhone 4, and the iPhone 5. An article in Tech Radar states that compact camera sales fell by 30 percent in 2011, and market researcher HIS has predicted that global compact camera sales will fall at least another four percent this year to 115.2 million units. DSLR sales do not seem to be affected by smart phones, at least for now.

To fight back the trend, manufacturers offer Wi-Fi capabilities for their compact cameras. Nikon has launched the S800c powered by Google Inc.'s Android mobile operating system. The camera makes use of applications to e-mail and share images on social networking websites. Canon is launching more Wi-Fi enabled compact cameras which can upload images to an online storage service or establish a direct wireless connection with a smartphone, tablet, or computer. The tiny square-shaped PowerShot N, for instance, is aimed specifically at "social" photographers who may have previously used a smartphone as their only camera, with a 2.8-inch tilting touchscreen, a variety of Instagram-like creative filters that can be applied randomly to the photos, and built-in Wi-Fi for instant photo sharing. When the president of Nikon, Makoto Kimura said in an interview with Bloomberg that the company might have to "change the concept of cameras" in order to survive, he has put the focus on a problem that seems to have come to the foreground: more and more people are taking photographs, not with a point and shoot or DSLR, but with a phone.

It is possible that as smartphone camera users evolved into savvy photographers they will want better quality photographs and the sales of stand-alone digital cameras will increase. Only time will tell... *



Monday December 16, 2013, CH 7:
 * Annual Holiday & Awards Dinner *
 Have you bought your tickets?

Travels with a Photographer Spouse

By *Carolyn Bray*

Traveling with an avid photographer is always a challenge and it requires the spouse to be flexible and adaptable in expectations. My husband Mike brings an extraordinary intensity to his passion for photography. In pursuit of the next great photo opportunity, we have traveled to many diverse locations. On one adventure, we visited Turks and Caicos for a week of scuba diving. As we were hovering over a colorful wall of sponges and soft corals at 90 feet, something caught Mike's eye. He quickly turned toward the wall to take a picture and in the process, kicked me in the face with his fin and knocked my mask off! Did I mention we were 90 feet underwater? He turned around, saw that I got my mask back in place, and kept on taking pictures. My lecture about consideration for your dive buddy had to wait until we were back on the boat!



That's me after recuperating from the incident!

On another trip, we went to Little Cayman, one of our favorite dive destinations. We were diving in fifteen to twenty feet of water looking for sailfin blennies. Suddenly, out of the shallows appeared a hammerhead shark making his way toward us. I was terrified and looked for Mike; and there he was, camera at the ready, kicking as fast as he could *toward* the large hammerhead. My first reaction was, "Are you crazy?" "Do you want to be its lunch?" He got the shot. Only an overzealous photographer would ever chase a hammerhead! I'm not sure overzealous is the right word, but you get the idea...



Mike's Hammerhead



The Galapagos Islands are an exotic zoo teeming with unusual birds, marine animals and fish. Mike was enjoying every minute of seeing all these wonderful creatures. I, unfortunately, was more focused on the below-par cleanliness of the boat, inadequate air conditioning, and the mechanical problems associated with the toilet in our bathroom. Simply stated, the toilet wouldn't flush. Worse, the boat was out of the part it needed for a fix. Mike, not wanting to berate the staff and being the nice guy, said "No problem, all we have to do is push the flapper down, the tank will refill, and it will flush." I thought, What does he mean by "we?" The next time I asked Mike to fix the toilet. "Sorry, I can't," he said, "Orcas off the bow!" And off he went, camera in hand. I was not happy with him at that moment, but he did keep the toilet working for the rest of the trip.

Besides a few discrepancies in expectations, the best thing about being married to an ardent photographer is that I'm now looking at things in a different light and therefore my horizons are expanded in ways never imagined. Through compromise, Mike has learned to appreciate art museums and I have learned to enjoy photography. We both delight in new experiences and find ourselves taking pictures anywhere we go. Photography brings us to new destinations and serves to preserve and share our travel memories. ☞



◀◀◀ The famous Orcas!

Tech Corner ☞



Tips for Taking Better Photos

Article and Photography by *Mike Bray*

Based on a few "don'ts" from judges at critiques, here are a few suggestions for "do's" to help you take better photographs.

◆ Show one subject clearly

This tip alone can separate a snapshot from a competitive image. When a photograph is too "busy" with multiple subjects of equal interest and focus, the viewer's eyes has no place to rest, wandering around looking for a central subject. One dominant subject on the other hand can captivate our interest.



◆ Get Close

Many snapshots show the main subject too far away. This seems to happen often with travel photos. Don't lose your subject to the surrounding scene. Remember to get close to your subject and your images will have more impact.



◆ Simplify the background

A cluttered background draws attention away from the main subject in a photograph. Choose the best position for your shot by framing your image without interfering distractions in the background.

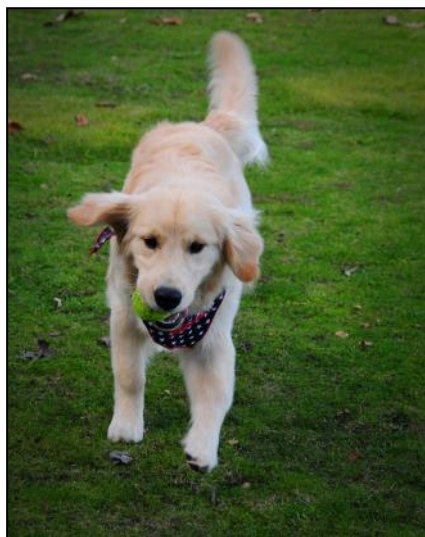


This is probably not practical in sports events. In these cases, remember to shoot “wide open” or with the lowest number f-stop possible (like f/4.5 or f/5.6). This will give the image a shallow depth of field and blur a busy background.



◆ Change your angle of view

Most often, photos are taken from a standing point of view. Vary the angle of view and you can often make a static image more dynamic.



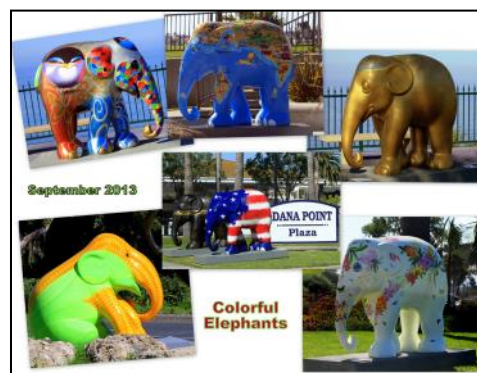
Elephant Parade

By *Alan Pollock*

On September 19th, Kevin Hass’ photography class took a field trip to Dana Point Harbor to photograph sculptures of full size baby elephants (approximately 5-6 feet tall) on exhibit until November 17. They were displayed around the city, its harbor and surrounding resorts, such as the St Regis Monarch Beach Resort and the Ritz Carlton in Laguna Niguel.

These colorful sculptures were then auctioned off to raise funds and bring awareness to the plight of endangered Asian elephants.

Cathie Pollock has created a slide show of the display at <http://tinyurl.com/klmdxrt>



Photography by Alan Pollock

View this and older issues on-line at <http://www.lhcameraclub.com/Cameraderie.html>

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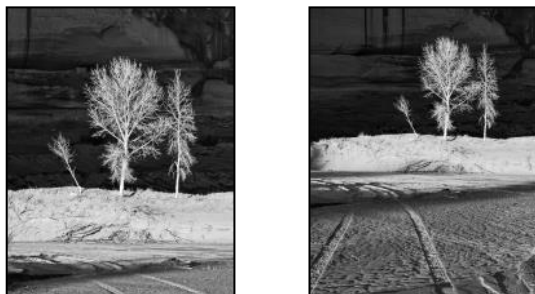
Taking Better Photos — Continued

It isn't necessary to get into a prone position if you can't get back up! It is usually better, however, to take photos of children at their eye level rather than your own. One option when taking photos of the grandchildren is to have them stand on stairs or a bench, or sit in a chair, so that you don't have a downward angle in your image.



◆ Remember the Rule of Thirds

Usually, photographs look better when the main subject is placed off-center. While this is a moot point with extreme close-ups, a viewer will most often find an image that follows this general principle more pleasing than the same subject centered. Centered images tend to look static, whereas off-center prints bring energy to a scene.



(Tips adapted from "Kodak Pocket Guide to Great Picture Taking," Simon and Schuster, 1984)

My Favorite Local Spot for Photography — Part 2

By **Mike Bray**

Adding to the locations mentioned in the last issue, we have received responses from several other Camera Club members about their favorite nearby spots for photo shoots.

George and Mickey Mellevold like the **Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum** in *Vista*. A frequent

visitor, George has been photographing this spot for the past ten years.

Tom and Carol Getz put the **Bolsa Chica Wetlands** as their favorite spot for a photo outing. An avid birder, Tom lists this as a top pick for bird photography.

Jim Lenthall has several favorite sites in *San Diego*, notably **Balboa Park** and the aircraft carrier **Midway**.

Harvey Gershenson rates **Niki de Saint Phalle's Queen Califia's Magic Circle** as number one on his list. This attraction is located in *Kit Carson Park* in *Escondido*.

Another site in *Escondido* is **Safari Park**, which tops Jim Graver's list. **The San Diego Zoo** was also mentioned by Jim as a favorite venue for animal photography.

Joel Goldstein puts *Laguna Beach* first on his list of photography destinations, and named **Top of the World Park** and **Heisler Park** as his top choices in Laguna.

Unsurprisingly, several members also rank *Laguna Beach* as top spot for photography:

Chuck Eisenstein shares the camera there with wife Laura. Chuck loves to shoot the **downtown beach area** as well as the **shops** nearby.

For Gosta Koeck who also favors *Laguna Beach*, **Heisler Park and the Montage Resort** definitely rank as the best in Laguna.

Pat Wilkinson enjoys photographing close to home in *Laguna Woods* and lists **Laguna Woods Village and Green Thumb Nursery** as her favorite spots for a photo outing.

Also listing the **Laguna Woods Village** as his favorite spot to photograph locally was Ted Miller. Ted shared that he gets great enjoyment photographing the **Senior Games** and other activities in the Village.

Bette Harper rates the **Mission** in *San Juan Capistrano* her top choice for a photo shoot. Among the photo options available at the Mission, Bette always looks for macro opportunities.

Linda Berman enjoys photographing events locally, such as the **Civil War re-enactment** in *Huntington Beach*, the **Renaissance Fair** in *Irwindale*, and the **Concours d'Elegance** in *Dana Point*. ☞

PHOTO OPS
December — February

The following events present good photo shoot opportunities:

- ◆ Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade, December 18-22. Newport Beach; <http://tinyurl.com/lsow3bd>
- ◆ Huntington Harbor Cruise of Lights, December 14-15, 19-23. Huntington Harbor; <http://www.hhboatparade.org/>
- ◆ Irish Holiday Festival, December 8. Bowers Museum; <http://www.bowers.org/>
- ◆ Holiday Ice Rink, till February 18. Irvine Spectrum. <http://www.skatespectrum.com/>
- ◆ San Diego International Auto Show, January 1-5, 2014. <http://www.sdauto show.com/>

Welcome to New Members
Sep - Nov 2013

Jeanne M. Allen
Cheryl & Ron Beldner
Nancy Carlson
Evelyn Chang
David Davenport
Carol Feezor
Marshall and Sandra Goldman
Shelton and Kathryn Green

Lori Jo Gresowski
Deanna Hafeli
Ken Hirsch
Shirley and Danny Jen
Benji Johnson
Stan Konow
Ella Liberman
Cynthia Lloyd

Bernie Mangini
David Marchese
Scott and Fay Lyn Marvel
Kay and Paul McNamara
Barbara Mescon
Claus Henry Michelsen
Miranda Munson
John Showalter

Cristina Somerset
Evelyn Spiess
Katherine Vaccaro
Tineke Van Der Vliet
Doris Van Zandt
Judy Zeiter
Alexander Wasserlauf
Judi Yavitz

Fall Colors in Oak Glen, SO CAL



Sunflowers by Mansour Gilman



Autumn Glory by Rita Westfield



Autumn Leaves by MRH



Reflection on a Pond by John Querido

Thank you to all the people who make our club so amazing.
There are places for everyone to participate.



TIME VALUE MATERIAL

Cameraderie
The Camera Club of Laguna Hills,
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
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