



Cameraderie

Fall 2020

Volume 162



Camera Club of Laguna Woods, California; Organized 1966 - www.lhcameraclub.com

*** A Member Club of the Photographic Society of America, www.psa-photo.org ***



The 2020 Board of Directors and Officers

President	Rodney Cooper
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Webmaster	Elaine Randolph
Editor, <i>Cameraderie</i>	Mary-Rose Hoang

Contact Board members via email:
cameraclublh@gmail.com.



The Camera Club is on Facebook. Check us out!

Save The Date:



Wed
Oct 21

*Digital Critique
Due Date*

Special Subject:
Transportation

All photos due:
Wednesday
10/21/2020 by
5:00 PM


On the cover: Our Club President, Rodney Cooper.
Get to know him this month!

You can view this and older issues on the Club's website at <http://www.lhcameraclub.com/Cameraderie.html>

All photography is copyrighted and by the articles' authors unless otherwise noted.

***Cameraderie* Committee**

Editor: Mary-Rose Hoang
 Team: Carolyn Bray, Mike Bray, Joel Goldstein, Bette Harper, Eleanor Oyen, Patricia Patti, Elaine Randolph

Any article, question, comment, suggestion please email us: cameraclublh@gmail.com
 attn.: ***Cameraderie***  E-mail

Cameraderie, Newsletter of
 The Camera Club of Laguna Woods,
 Laguna Woods, CA 92637
 Website: www.lhcameraclub.com



<https://www.psa-photo.org/>



President's Message
By *Rodney Cooper*

Well, our year is drawing to a close. With only a few Club activities remaining this year, I hope you will all participate as best you can.

Once the new board has been finalized, we will be starting to map out the path forward for the future of our Club. We encourage everybody to contribute to this effort which can be done in several ways: joining the board, or volunteering in a committee or in some other supporting capacity. Send ideas to the Club email (cameraclubh@gmail.com Attn: Rodney Cooper). Please step up and help.

Because we are unable to have our traditional Holiday Dinner this year, we are planning a Zoom meeting where some of the usual activities will happen remotely. We will be including a special slideshow of pictures from our members; these will not be judged or critiqued, they are just an opportunity to share your pictures for others to see and enjoy. We will be sending out details on what, how and when to submit pictures. The more people participating the more fun it will be. Keep on the lookout for the announcements and invitations and start figuring out which picture you want to share.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in this very strange year, and to thank all those members who have helped make it possible. I particularly want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the great work

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Photo by MRH

that the retiring board members have done over this and previous years. You and your contributions will all be missed.

I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season coming up. I hope you will be able to celebrate with friends and family in some way that is safe and within your comfort zone. Let us hope that 2021 brings us some welcome respite from this pandemic.

Rodney Cooper

HONOR ROLL

From the September 2020 Digital Critique

Pictorial



Hamburgers Are Made of
WHAT?
Linda Berman



That's My Pride and Joy
Larry Goodman

Monochrome

No Monochrome Images received a score of 9 in this critique

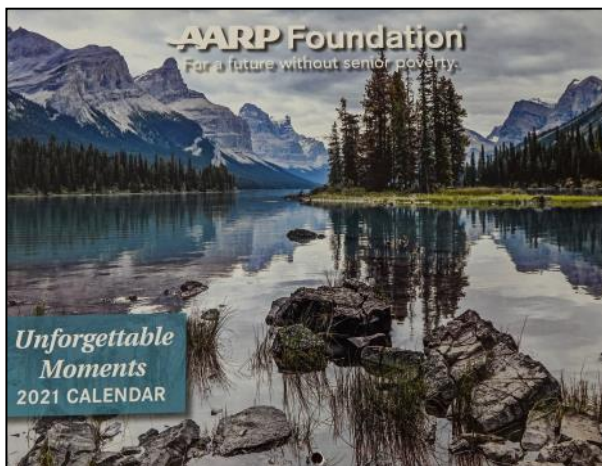
Living on the Edge
Patricia Patti

To view details of the September Digital critique, follow [this link](#) to the Club's website.

Special Subject: Minimalism



Member, Patricia Patti, won a spot on the 2021 AARP Foundation Calendar. The theme was 'Unforgettable Moments.' Pat's hummingbird image was titled 'My Curious Friend' and is featured for the month of April. If you're a member of AARP, look for the 2021 Calendar which is being mailed out. Well done, Patti!





In August this year, the Photographic Society of America (PSA) awarded our Camera Club an Honorable Mention in the Large Club Division of its Newsletter Contest. This yearly contest is always very competitive and this year, our *Cameraderie* was one of the 46 newsletters that were entered, of which 23 were from Large Clubs. We also received a Best Short Article on One Page or Less on an article by Patricia Patti, titled “*Abstract Macro Photography - A Fun and Easy Project*,” on page 12 of the 2019 Summer issue of the *Cameraderie*.

To see what the competition looks like, [click on this link](#) to view the 2020 results page of PSA’s website. Then click on “Large Club Division” which lists the awarded newsletters. Patti’s article is under the “Best Articles: Large Clubs” awards.

PSA has gone worldwide as reflected in its new logo! Although the Camera Club is already a member, you could become its member and enjoy many benefits, too many to list here. So check its website <https://psa-photo.org/>

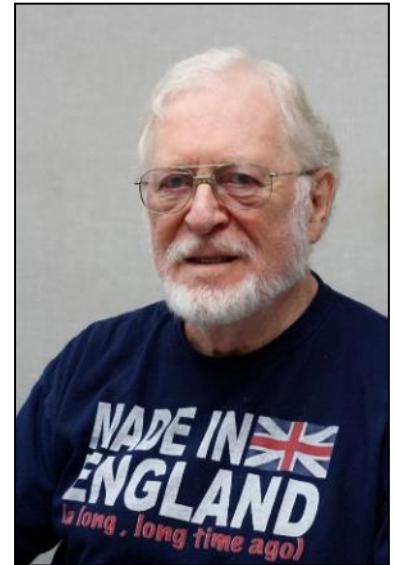


Note: *Have you received any award and/or honor for your images or are you featured in any publication or exhibit since our last newsletter? Email a copy to us with all details about your wins or articles so that the Cameraderie can include them in our next issue. Thanks.
- The Cameraderie*

One Who Steps Up: Getting to Know Rodney Cooper

By Mike Bray

In 2017, rules governing Village clubs were changed. Regulations for club memberships limited these memberships to 10% of participants living outside Laguna Woods Village and forbid any “outsiders,” or non-Laguna Woods residents from serving on the Club’s Board of Directors. In the case of the Laguna Hills Camera Club, new memberships for outsiders were frozen and those serving in positions on the board were required to step down at year-end. This led to many changes and challenges for filling board positions for the Camera Club. No current members of the club served in the same position three years ago, and only one remains on our board. To those who stepped in and filled positions, we owe a debt of gratitude, and none bigger than owed to Rodney Cooper who stepped up to the role in serving as LHCC president for 2020.



Catalina Sunset

Rodney was born in North London, England in the winter of 1939. War with Germany was raging at that time, and before Rodney had his first birthday, the Germans started the heavy bombing campaign on London called the blitz. With his father away from home serving in the army coastal defense unit, Rodney, his mother, and later his baby sister, made



One Lunch to Go

frequent use of nearby bomb shelters. Air raids, blackouts, images of German bombers in action, gas mask inspections in his early days of school, these were among Rodney’s earliest childhood memories.

Rodney attended public schools in London and pursued mathematics following the counsel of one very influential teacher. His academic path took him to the university

Getting to Know Rodney Cooper - continued

By Mike Bray

level and soon to the world of computers. Rodney started as a computer programmer in the late 1950s beginning with a computer called “Deuce.” Rodney quipped, “today that computer wouldn’t even power your watch.” His start in the technology universe was before computer languages, but his specialty as a computer programmer lasted through his entire career. Only his job title changed; today his professional job title is called a software engineer.



Self-Portrait: Software Engineer



Lenny Invades Soka



Rodney’s profession pulled him to different geographical locations. He left England in his 20s for northern California and spent the greater part of his career working for Control Data Corporation (Rodney joked CDC stood for something else back then!). While most of his working career was spent in the San Francisco Bay area, Rodney’s career path also took him to Irvine, CA; Kansas City, Kansas, and Cincinnati, Ohio before his retirement in Laguna Woods in 2010. Rodney met his wife Louann in 1972. They were married in 1977 while working for Fluor Corporation in Irvine. While both are current members of the Camera Club, Rodney was recruited soon after joining to prepare the Digital Critique programs. (Rodney got his feet wet before they hit the ground!)

Rodney became interested in photography in his early 20’s. His subjects included images from his travels and the natural world around him. One of his early projects was photographing Elizabethan chimneys. Rodney continues to enjoy photographing flora and fauna as well as landscapes and black and white images. He has taken classes in photography since the film days, but more recently has been enjoying the Emeritus classes given by Kara, Laura, and Kevin. Rodney confesses to owning a few cameras and lenses including Nikon and Canon, but doesn’t consider owning the latest model camera a priority. He does confess to his love of editing, which entails working on such things as masking, compositing and

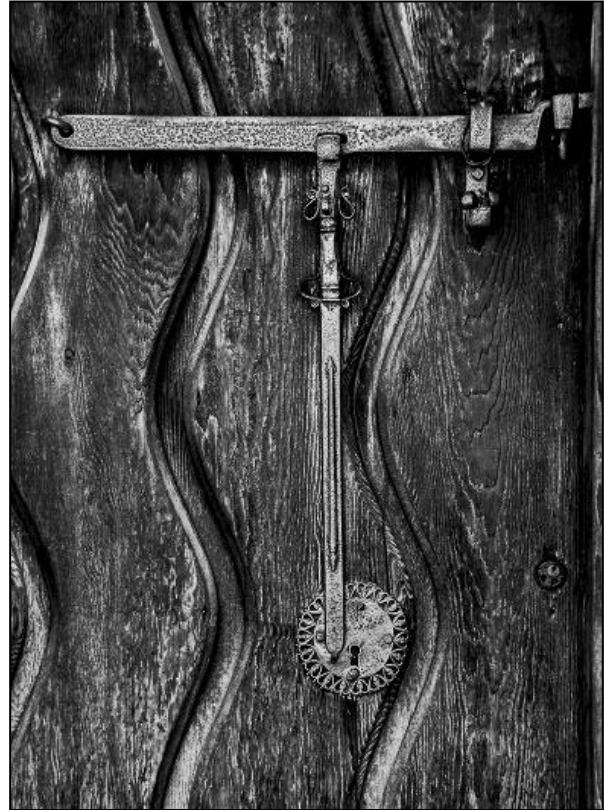
Getting to Know Rodney Cooper - continued

By Mike Bray

replacing skies. Rodney uses both Lightroom and Photoshop in his post-production workflow.



California Bell




The Lock, Mission San Juan Capistrano

The Covid-19 virus has disrupted many of our Camera Club activities. Since March our photo lab has been closed, as has the classroom used for educational programs and Clubhouse 3, which was used for critique and showcase events. Rodney has kept our schedule full by arranging Zoom sessions for both digital critiques and showcase events. He also hopes to grow interest in the Camera Club by increasing education on cell phone camera use, especially since our phone cameras have many features that few of us know how to use! Rodney hopes to increase the scope in reaching newer amateur shooters by offering more field trips and perhaps introducing a mentoring program. He has other ideas too, and looks forward to receiving input from members, so stay tuned and be sure to participate if you have suggestions.

I am sure you will agree that we are lucky to have Rodney to keep our LHCC moving forward in these challenging times!



By Mary-Rose Hoang 

“The best camera is the one you have with you,” so the saying goes. And what is more readily available than our ubiquitous cell phone camera? But to up your game, you might want to consider the following tips.

Tip #1: Use Voice Command

To take a shot, instead of pressing the big white button on your phone, use your voice to do the job. Open the camera app, click on Settings, scroll down and click on “Shooting methods,” turn on “Voice Control.” I use this all the time, especially when I need to hold my phone steady. After I compose my shot, I either say “Smile,” “Cheese,” or “Capture,” functions that are available on my Samsung phone. iPhones no doubt have similar commands too. Easy, quick, no hands, and it even creates some smiles!

Tip # 2: Don’t Zoom In

One of the very common mistakes people make is to zoom in on their cell phone. Doing so will make the picture grainy or pixelated. Instead, try to move in closer to your subject and take the picture, while exercising precaution. You can crop it later.

Tip # 3: Set your Camera Focus

Cell phone cameras tend to have everything within the frame in sharp details but you can decide which area will be in focus. Just touch the screen where you want your subject to be sharpest.

Tip # 4: Use Grid Lines

The rule of thirds suggests that the focal point of an image be placed at the intersection of the lines of a tic-tac-toe grid. To turn on the grid lines on your

- iPhone: go to “Settings,” choose “Photos & Camera,” and switch the “Grid” function to “On”

- Samsung Galazy: launch camera app, go to “Settings,” scroll down and switch the grid lines option to “On.”

From Wikipedia



Tip #5: Make it simple

To achieve the most impact, keep your composition simple. An image like “Living on the Edge,” by Patricia Patti on page 4, can be easily taken by a cell phone camera.

Tip #6: Take a Panorama

Cell phone cameras can take a panoramic image with minimum effort. While holding your phone in the portrait position, be sure to have steady hands, and move slowly from one direction to the other.

Tip #7: Apply Filters

Sometimes, when a photo seems boring, a well selected filter can change it from “blah” to “wow” as attested by this photo by Barbara Woolweaver. Apps like VSCO, Snapseed, Prisma or Waterlogue, to name just a few, offer more than one way to transform your photos.



Before Crop and Filter



After Crop and Filter

Do Your Photos Tell A Story?

By Mike Bray

Storytelling in photography is the art of conveying a message to the viewer. The message can be subtle or mysterious (think of the Mona Lisa), harsh and explosive, as in photojournalism, or simple, or humorous. Successful storytelling leads the viewer farther into your image and arouses emotion or curiosity. It adds to the enjoyment of the visual experience photography provides.

Several guidelines can improve your photographic efforts toward better storytelling. Below are a few suggestions.

- **Keep it simple.** Try to eliminate distractions that diminish the primary subject.



- **Watch for emotional moments.** Many times, these can be captured at family events, public places, sport venues or competitions, and specific events like parades.



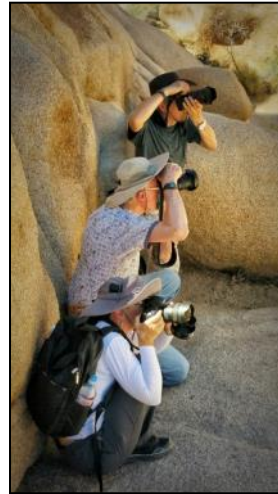
- **Look for journalistic opportunities.** Protest marches, swearing-in ceremonies, conventions, or public celebrations abound with them.



Do Your Photos Tell A Story? - continued

By Mike Bray

- **Crop for impact.** A strategic crop of your images will strengthen the story, but be sure not to leave out good storytelling details. Will your viewer understand your message? Details are important, but so is simplicity.



- **Always keep an eye out for the unexpected.** In nature, sports, and people photography, changes can happen quickly and opportunities can present themselves when you least expect them to!



- Lastly, **look for a story in the everyday or the common.** Oftentimes, a message resides in plain view within familiar sights and subjects. Conveying that message in a meaningful and artistic manner is the challenge to the photographer.

See if these ideas help you tell your stories!

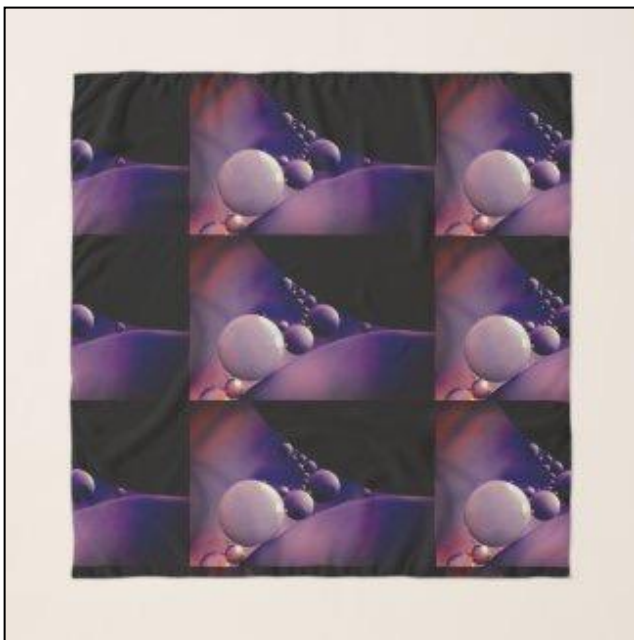


5 Fun Photo Gift Ideas

By Patricia Patti



1. **2021 Calendar.** There are so many online printing sources for you to choose from. My favorite is **Shutterfly.com** priced at \$19.97 for 8x11. They offer discounts regularly if you are on their mailing list. costco.com also features several calendar options starting at \$9.99 for 8.5x11. For a more upscale product try mpix.com. They offer a luxurious shimmering pearl paper as a choice. An 11x 8.5 custom calendar starts at \$23.00. As with most things bought on line, it is the shipping and handling that adds to the price.



2. **A Personalized Photo Scarf.** A personalized designed scarf would make a lovely gift. You can choose different sizes, fabrics and patterns. This website features the swirl technique on some of the samples which look fun. Zazzle.com. A 10" by 45" Chiffon scarf starts at \$29.99.

3. **Watercolor Canvas Print.** My relative recently sold and moved from her home of 50 years. Although heartbreaking, it was a new start for her. I edited a photo of her house in a watercolor app and ordered it in a small canvas print. She was thrilled to have it displayed among her many memories. For this project I used shutterfly.com.



5 Fun Photo Gift Ideas - continued

By Patricia Patti



4. **Cookies.** Who knew you can have your face imprinted on a cookie? Although pricey, this could make a fun addition to your holiday celebrations. Cookies can be made from your photo image starting at \$.85 - 5.99 each. parkerscrazycookies.com

Photo Courtesy of Parkers Crazy cookies



5. **Custom Face Masks.** This pesky pandemic appears to be here with us for a while longer. Why not get creative and make originally designed face masks for yourself or grandkids? Use your photos to make a fashion statement while staying safe. Face masks start at \$21.99. snapfish.com



Photo Courtesy of Snapfish

Photography Terms

By Mary-Rose Hoang

Bokeh: to throw the background out-of-focus and keep your subject in sharp focus, you zoom in or get close to your subject. The quality of this out-of-focus region is called bokeh. Note that not all lenses create the same bokeh and some are known and sought for their bokeh.

Burst Mode: when this mode is on, you can continue snapping photos as long as you hold the shutter button down, or until the camera buffer is full.

Digital vs. Optical: is used when referring to a zoom lens or capacity. While digital means the effect is achieved

through software, you want to look for the optical zoom which is always better than digital.

Image Stabilization: is a feature of many camera lenses and cameras to counteract shake from handholding your camera. Without it, your image ends up with some blur when you handhold your camera and take a photo.

Noise: often avoided at all costs, noise is also called grain and is simply little flecks in an image. To avoid noise, use the lowest ISO you can for the amount of the light available.

Panorama: is a picture or photograph containing a wide view. Most cameras including cell phone cameras offer this.

Club's News & Announcements

By Joel Goldstein and
Mary-Rose Hoang

Announcements

- *Extension of Membership:* The membership committee along with the Board of Directors have extended all current membership through 2021 at no extra cost to members.
- *Next critique: Oct 26;* Special Subject: Transportation. All submissions are due by 5 pm Wednesday 10/21/2020.
- The *Member Handbook* has been completed and emailed to all current as well as new members.
- The Camera Club is calling for photo submissions for a slide show at a virtual year-end event; details coming in November.
- A warm welcome to Sandra Smolinsky who has stepped up as Secretary to the Board of Directors.
- *Year-end competition rules for both prints and digital images* have been emailed to all current members in October.
- *Year-end Award Presentation* will be online, via Zoom on Tuesday December 8.
- The *Club's Village TV video* this month is *Rodney Cooper's* autobiographical slideshow along with 3 October-theme shorts. Broadcasts are Wednesdays @ 11:30 am and Saturdays @ 10:30 am. For November, *Joel Goldstein's* video of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and Harper's Ferry will also be shown on Wednesday @ 11:30 am and Saturday @ 10:30 am, or click on [this link](#).

Past Events

Due to the pandemic situation, all Club activities for the past three months have been held via Zoom.

- ◆ A Critique Submission workshop gave members guidelines for photo sizing and submitting photos to the bi-monthly critiques.
- ◆ Ralph Nordstrom's Mastering Landscape Photography. <http://ralphnordstromphotography.com/>
- ◆ Tim Mathieson's Showcase. <http://panoscenes.com/>
- ◆ Brent Paull's showcase of his photography of Yellowstone and California. <http://www.amwestphoto.com/index.htm>
- ◆ Erin Manning's showcase on Travel Photography Basics.
- ◆ Digital Critiques of May, July and September.

Tavern at Lock 19
By Joel Goldstein



Future Events

All future activities will be held via Zoom until further notice.

- Monday **October 26, 2020:** last Digital Critique of the year. Special Subject: Transportation.
- Monday November 9, 2020: General meeting and presentation of the 2021 Board of Directors. All welcome. Details to follow.
- Tuesday **December 8, 2020:** Year-end Award Presentation. Details to follow.

**Welcome to Our New Members
August - September 2020**

Bruce Bastian Laurie Reynolds
Peggy Giovinazzo Ora Wolf

A particular shout-out to the following members for their Club anniversaries:

- 5 years: Alan Berman
 Nargis Choudhry
 Edward Elwell
 Robert Howe
 Russ Lazar
- 10 years: Mike Bray
 Mark Rabinowitch
 Elaine Randolph
- 15 years: Tom Getz
 Carol Peterson
 Robert Sellards
- 20 years: Marilyn Bau
 Burt Goldstein
 Ann Hoffelder
 Alan Pollack
 Catherine Pollack
- 21 years: Lawrence Bau
- 23 years: Patricia Burr



Until next time, Stay Safe!

During this pandemic time, please watch out for the Club's emails for any information and announcements pertaining to the Club's activities.



A good photograph is knowing where to stand. - Ansel Adams

A Little Humor....

Shared by Joel Goldstein

