



Cameraderie

Winter 2020

Volume 163



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

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

Cameraderie

Fall 2020



CONGRATULATIONS!

The 2021 Board of Directors and Officers

Board Members

President	Rodney Cooper
Immediate Past President	Russ Lazar
Vice President, Facilities	Larry Cunningham
Vice President, Education	Evelyn Chang
Secretary	Rita Vettriano
Treasurer	Lawrie Bau
Membership	Rick Vettriano and Arnold Silverman
Hospitality	Patricia Patti
Publicity	Joel Goldstein
Members-at-Large	Peter Battin and Joel Goldstein

Other Officers

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!

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

Save The Date:



*Digital Critique
Due Date*

Special Subject:
Photojournalism

All photos due:
Wednesday
01/20/2021 by
5:00 PM

On the cover: Kara Mahotka Patterson,
a favorite instructor of the Emeritus Institute at
Saddleback College. Meet Kara on page 9.



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



President's Message
By **Rodney Cooper**

Happy New Year everyone!

As we start out into 2021, I want to thank everyone for their help and support as we navigated the twists and turns brought on by the COVID pandemic and the restrictions it imposed. We have already had a couple of changes on the Board of Directors. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Rita Vettriano as Secretary and Lawrie Bau as Treasurer. While I am on the subject of Board positions, I know it is early days yet, I would like to stress that we will be needing people to step up and fill slots on the Board for next year; so start thinking about how you might be able to help.

The Club, as you know, continues to function thanks to the work of members who volunteer their time and expertise. One significant group is the team of people who put together this wonderful publication. They are talented and dedicated. Of particular note is our Publisher and Editor in Chief Mary-Rose Hoang. She has been the guiding light for the Cameraderie for a long time now, but it is time for her to move on. Thank you Mary-Rose for everything. We do not want to see the Cameraderie disappear, so we need to find a successor. If you have skills in this area, or know someone who does, please contact me at the Club Mailbox (cameraclublh@gmail.com with Subject

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Photo by MRH

“Cameraderie”). Training will be provided of course.

Looking forward to the coming year, we plan to continue using Zoom for our showcases, critiques, and classes. We hope to improve our offerings based on our experience from last year. We hope that by the end of the year things will have improved enough for us to move back to in-person meetings. I cannot wait to meet with you, our members, face to face again.

Rodney

HONOR ROLL

2020 Year-End Competition

The 2020 Year-End Club Competition results were announced at the Camera Club's Year-End virtual session on Zoom on December 8, 2020.

Congratulations to all our winners!

Pictorial

Minding the Children,
Best of Show and
1st Place, Monochrome
Linda Berman



Precarious Landing, 1st Place
Ken Furuta

HONOR ROLL



Remembered, 2nd Place
Russ Lazar



Hungry Trio, 3rd Place
Susan Furuta

Hamburgers Are Made of WHAT?
4th Place
Linda Berman

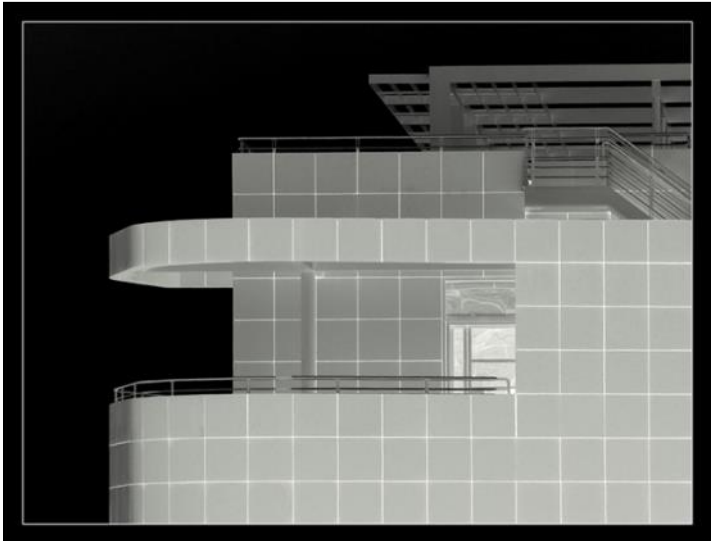


Monochrome

HONOR ROLL



Gluten Free, 2nd Place
Patricia Patti



Modern Design, 3rd Place
Lawrie Bau



The Wise Owl, 4th Place
Larry Goodman

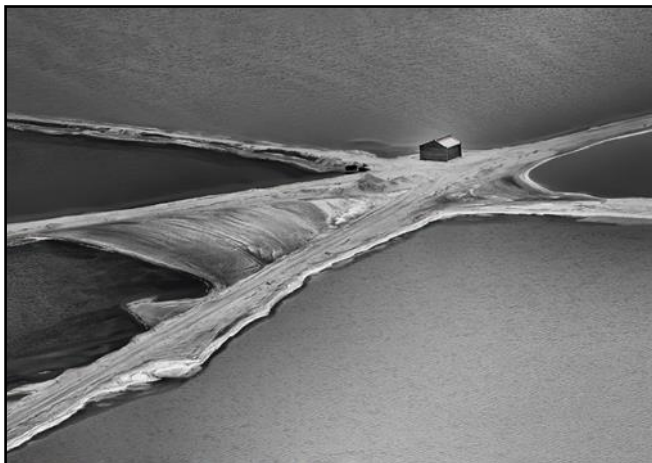
Special Subject

HONOR ROLL

Distant Outpost, 1st Place
Linda Berman



Pretty Popping, 2nd Place
Larry Goodman



Isolated, 3rd Place
Ken Furuta



ARCTIC After Sunset, 4th Place
Russ Lazar

Judges' Awards

HONOR ROLL



Feeding Time
Larry Goodman



The Saxophonist
Mary-Rose Hoang



The Last Magnolia
George Harper

Year-End High Points

Color Pictorial

- First Place: Larry Goodman
- Second Place: Ken Furuta
- Third Place: Mike Bray
- Fourth Place: Russ Lazar

Monochrome

- First Place: Bette Harper, George Harper (Tie)
- Second Place: Larry Goodman, Russ Lazar (Tie)
- Third Place: Ken Furuta
- Fourth Place: Mike Bray

Special Subject

- First Place: Ken Furuta, Russ Lazar (Tie)
- Second Place: George Harper
- Third Place: Mike Bray
- Fourth Place: Lawrie Bau, Bette Harper, Violet Kong, Dee Tucker (Tie)

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**

The Lydia Savedoff Memorial Award

Congratulations to Mike Bray, the recipient of the 2020 Lydia Savedoff Award!

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/>



2021 Digital Critiques

Special Subject Categories

- * January: Photojournalism
- * March: Altered Reality
- * May: Curves
- * July: Abstract
- * September: Architecture
- * October: Nature/Fauna (Animals)

Ode to a Favorite Teacher, Kara Mahotka Patterson



Many of us in the Camera Club take classes from Saddleback College's Emeritus program. The most popular classes for the majority of us are those in the photography department. After the Spring semester in 2019, Kara Mahotka Patterson retired. Kara taught at a variety of levels after graduating from Cal State Fullerton in 1985 with a Master of Fine Arts degree, but for nearly 30 years has been a standard of excellence in the Emeritus program. Several qualities distinguished Kara's teaching methods and class structure which made her so exceptional and memorable.

Kara came into the Emeritus program with a background in both art and photography, so her transition into teaching photography to seniors was aided by her knowledge of the subject and her ability to present material in a manner that senior students could understand. In recent years, Kara utilized a projector and a large screen in the front of the classroom and walked us through concepts, new software, images for critique and so forth. She never hesitated to go back and answer any question a student might have, even if she had already covered the subject several times. Her patience was extraordinary.

Kara's humor was another gift to all of us. She would give weekly homework assignments in our slideshow class and most of the time only a few students would complete the assignment. Kara treated these omissions with great sarcasm, which drew chuckles from all of us! Kara persevered with humor, which



Los Angeles Field Trip 2010

made her classes enjoyable, yet pushed us to try new things and learn new concepts.

One of the challenges faced by the Emeritus program is that the same classes are offered each semester. Instructors wanting to keep their classes full with mostly the same students face the daunting task of mixing existing concepts with fresh material. George Harper noted that "Kara introduced us to a whole gamut of new ideas, whether in new versions of software like Photoshop Elements, or features in

A Favorite Teacher, Kara Mahotka Patterson continued

Proshow. She got us to broaden our horizons and helped us keep up-to-date with changes in technology.”

Kara told me that in classes her “mission was first to review and second to stimulate you to do new things.” That often meant pushing herself with new techniques or applications, and this sometimes resulted in Kara getting stuck! Kara never felt like she needed to have the final word, or be the ultimate authority, and would often get “unstuck” because a helpful student had the answer. Add tenacity and humility to the list of Kara’s endearing qualities.

Emeritus classes offer all of us a chance to stay active, continue learning, and connect with one another socially. Kara’s classes accomplished all these objectives, but her field trips were unrivaled in bringing together social bonds. They also got us out of Laguna Woods and gave us a chance to visit attractions that we would not otherwise get to see. Carol Buss wrote, “Kara’s field trips were wonderful! We had such fun traveling all over southern California with friends and cameras, discovering places, beautiful scenery, and interesting locations I didn’t even know existed... Thank you, Kara, for bringing us all together and ‘showing us the world’ through the eyes of a camera!”

As a group of older students, we were often a handful for Kara to deal with. Kara’s experience overcame most problems created by our forgetfulness or other issues; however, one particular routine was

regularly bungled by our group. At the start of each field trip, Kara would have us count off in sequence on the bus. We were instructed to memorize our number, so that upon returning to the bus we could again count off in sequence to ensure all students were back on board the bus. Invariably, a few would forget their number, or not hear Kara’s instruction and we would have to start the count off all over again. By the third try we would usually make it through all the numbers, unless one or two fellow travelers forgot what time we were scheduled to depart. Kara had everyone’s cellphone number, and her phone call to the wayward or late participants always saved the day.



Metro Station, Los Angeles

I think Kara was born to teach. Her classes were educational and fun. It is no wonder that her classes always had a waiting list in recent years, or that Kara was selected as teacher of the year for the Emeritus Institute the year before she retired. She earned the respect and admiration of all her students. Susan Brown Matsumoto summed up our

SPECIAL THANKS SPOTLIGHT

A Favorite Teacher, Kara Mahotka Patterson continued

By Mike Bray

high regard for Kara with the following tribute: “I am thankful for all the years I took your classes and never graduated because I enjoyed them so much! I miss your smiling face and your enthusiasm,

yet will always remember how fortunate I was to have you as my instructor. Thank you for everything you did for all of us. You are just the best!”




Travels with Kara - Bryce Canyon



Selfie Museum - Fun Times!

Photography Tips

By Mary-Rose Hoang 

- Avoid camera shake: hold your camera or your phone with both hands with your arms close to your body. After you press the shutter, keep still for 3 seconds before moving again.
- If you can buy only one filter for your lens, make it a circular polarized filter which will reduce reflections from water as well as metal and glass. After you put the filter on the lens, twist it around the lens while looking through the viewfinder for the optimized position to cut down glare.
- Don't overexpose the highlights. You can recover from dark areas but it is impossible to recover any detail from white areas of a photo.
- To get that beautiful blurred background for any subject, stand back away from your subject, use a telephoto lens and zoom in.
- Want to create a “star” effect from the sun? Use a small aperture, f/16 for example, and position yourself to make the sun peep out just enough from behind a tree or building.

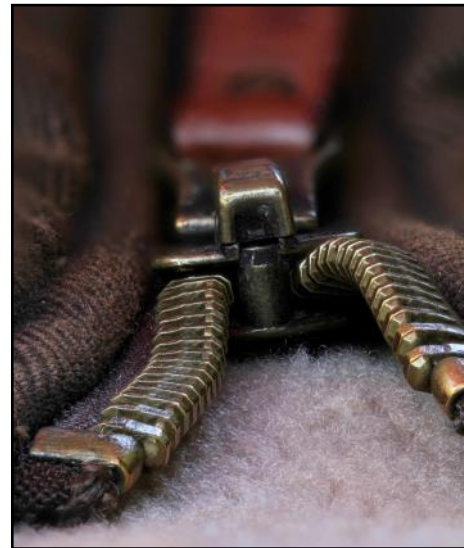
By Patricia Patti

Focus stacking is a technique that involves combining several images with different focal points to create a sharp looking result. Macro photography benefits from this technique because of the very close depth of field. The goal is to have a sharp focus on the front as well as the back of your subject. Landscape photographers will occasionally focus stack to get the foreground as well as the distant subject in sharp focus.

Steps to start focus stacking:

1. A tripod is a must for this technique.
2. A Focus rail is an important tool that will move your camera in very tiny (focal) increments. This involves taking a series of shots, using manual focus, so that a different part of the scene is in focus.
3. Maintain a good light source on your subject so it will prevent uneven shadows.
4. Choose a software program to process your multi-image project. **Zerene Stacker** and **Helicon** are popular choices used by macro shooters. **Sequator** is a popular free option for Windows. **Affinity Photo** (Mac) offers a powerful focus stacking tool called Focus Merge. Not only it is easy to use, it also produces excellent results most of the time. **Photoshop**, an industry standard, has the ability to align and blend multiple layers. After you complete shooting your series, load all your Images into **Photoshop** as Layers, then Merge. If the final combined image is blurry you can look back through each image and tweak your blend. There are numerous tutorials/actions online if you're interested.

This zipper image is a series of 24 images taken using a focus rail. The images were combined in Affinity Photo (Mac). My light source was outside on a cloudy day.



Focus rail set up. Macro lens 100mm, F6.3, 1/30, ISO 200.

Resources

Focus Slider Gear: Click [here](#) for a look on amazon.com

Zerene Stacker Software: <http://zerenesystems.com/cms/stacker>

Helicon Focus Software: <https://www.heliconsoft.com>

Focus Stacking Guide for Landscape Photography: <https://capturelandscapes.com/ultimate-focus-stacking-guide/>

STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES OF MIRRORLESS CAMERAS



By Ken Furuta

the lenses, especially wider-angle lenses, can also have smaller and lighter designs.

The autofocus systems of mirrorless cameras have been constantly improving and have now matched, and in some cases exceeded, the capabilities of DSLRs.

Are you evaluating the pros and cons of owning a mirrorless camera and trying to determine if it will suit your needs better than a DSLR? I went through this process a couple of years ago and will share my thoughts on advantages and disadvantages of the mirrorless format and the reasons why I made the switch.

ADVANTAGES

When mirrorless cameras were first introduced, their electronic viewfinders (EVFs) and the smaller size and weight of the bodies were what you were most likely to hear about.

- Electronic viewfinders (EVF) show you exactly what will be recorded on the sensor when you activate the shutter and provide the advantage of being able to adjust for the right exposure and depth of field before taking the shot. The optical viewfinders (OVFs) in DSLRs let you see the scene as your eyes see it, which is not necessarily as it will appear in your digital photograph. EVFs can remove a lot of the “guesswork” involved when shooting with optical viewfinders.
- The smaller size of the camera body is certainly an advantage when packing for a trip or hiking. Many of

- Some of the newest models provide burst rates up to 20 frames per second using a silent, electronic shutter mode. If you are a sports or wildlife photographer, this will facilitate capturing fast action without disturbing your subject or those around you.
- A very important recent development in mirrorless cameras is eye autofocus, which enables the camera to lock focus on the eye of the subject, and will continue to track the eye as the subject moves. Eye autofocus can be used for both humans and certain animals such as dogs and cats (Canon is now able to recognize the eyes of birds). As an action photographer, this is a game-changer for my sports and wildlife photography. This feature can also be very useful in portrait and wedding photography. Some cameras even allow you to register a specific face, to continue focusing on this subject's eye in group settings.

Another feature that was very appealing to me is the in-body image stabilization (IBIS) built into the sensors. This feature is currently unavailable in DSLRs. IBIS will provide image stabilization for lenses that do

not have built-in stabilization. Gaining the ability to hand-hold a non-stabilized lens in low light has been a real plus for me. IBIS will also significantly supplement the effectiveness of image-stabilized lenses. Canon claims their latest mirrorless cameras can achieve up to 8 stops of stabilization when paired with some of their image-stabilized lenses!

EVFs offer some additional features that the OVFs in DSLRs can't provide. Many cameras with EVFs allow you to enlarge a portion of the image to check focus. This is especially useful when shooting macro photography in the manual focus mode. Visual aids such as focus peaking to show what areas of the scene are in focus and "zebra" displays to identify areas with blown out highlights are also useful features in EVFs.

Sony, Canon and Nikon will allow you to mount their DSLR lenses on the mirrorless bodies using an adapter. This is a plus for those who will be moving from a DSLR and have a collection of DSLR lenses. Sony mirrorless cameras will also accommodate adapted DSLR lenses from virtually every manufacturer, with varying degrees of autofocus effectiveness.

If you are into video, mirrorless cameras generally have much more effective phase-detect autofocus video systems than DSLRs, which utilize contrast-detect systems. Serious videographers are almost universally using mirrorless cameras for their work.

Finally, based on the recent product launches from Canon and Nikon, it is apparent that most of their attention and research & development is now being

directed to mirrorless cameras and lenses. We can probably expect most of the new technological advances to be applied to these products.

DISADVANTAGES

Currently, not everything is positive with respect to mirrorless cameras. There are some disadvantages that you should be aware of.

- Mirrorless camera lenses are often significantly more costly than their DSLR counterparts. Also, for Canon and Nikon the number of available mirrorless lenses is currently relatively limited.
- Battery life can be much shorter for mirrorless cameras due to the power drain from the EVF and the IBIS systems. This issue seems to be improving with each new generation of cameras and batteries, but for now you may need to purchase and carry a spare battery or two.
- There is a certain amount of "viewfinder lag" in the electronic viewfinders. This means that the image you see is just slightly behind (typically by milliseconds) what is actually happening. For a very fast-moving subject like a bird in flight, this can cause the subject to be framed improperly or missed altogether. This has been one of the most significant criticisms of mirrorless camera EVFs from action photographers. Again, this problem seems to be improving with each new generation.
- Mirrorless cameras don't have a

mirror in front of the sensor to protect it from dust particles. You will be cleaning the sensor much more frequently on most interchangeable lens mirrorless cameras than on a DSLR. Some mirrorless cameras mitigate this issue by providing an option of keeping the shutter closed when changing lenses.

- Many photographers with large hands have complained that the small camera bodies are uncomfortable; some have had to attach battery grips to extend the size of the grip.

Your choice between a DSLR or a mirrorless system will depend on which best meets your needs and preferences as a photographer. Like their DSLR counterparts, mirrorless cameras are available with either full-frame or crop (APS-C) sensors. They also come in non-interchangeable lens models with smaller sensors that have many of the same features. If you are in the process of trying to make a decision, I think it will definitely be worthwhile to visit a local camera store to check out the size, features and ergonomics of some current models and compare the resolution and display of the viewfinders.

Few samples of mirrorless cameras

Internet Images



Photography Terms

By Mary-Rose Hoang 

Contrast-detect Autofocus: works by analyzing pixels on the camera's sensor. It works on the basis that the subject is in focus when contrast is highest. It tends to be slower than Phase-Detect AF as it has to push the focusing point of the lens back and forth until it achieves maximum contrast. Its primary benefit is its accuracy.

Phase-Detect Autofocus: In most cameras using this AF system, a second dedicated AF sensor also captures light. The phase-detect AF compares and analyzes light coming from two different locations on the AF sensor to determine

whether certain areas are in focus or out of focus. If the light rays converge, the image is in focus. If they don't, based on the difference between the rays, the AF sensor can quickly predict how the lens must be adjusted to obtain focus. This prediction is very fast. Note that all DSLRs use this AF mode when the mirror is down. When the mirror is up, meaning when the DSLR uses Live View, the camera generally switches to contrast-detect AF.

Zebra Pattern: is a highlight warning indicator. It overlays some stripes on the image viewed on the camera screen to warn you that your highlights are blown out. Note that it is not recorded onto the resulting image.

Information based on Internet

Pandemic lockdown? Stay busy and keep shooting!

By Mike Bray

The stay-at-home orders now in place due to the increase in Covid-19 cases have put most of us in a major funk. We all try to stay home as much as possible and generally watch way too much television. How many jigsaw puzzles have you done? Tired of reading? I suggest that you follow the example of some of our club members who make themselves photograph something on a regular basis. I asked several of our club members to submit images that show subjects available in spite of the pandemic. Let's call it the pandemic portfolio. I suggest taking some of these ideas as motivation to stay creative with your camera.

Starting with ideas for taking photos at home, I asked Pat Patti about her studio work that is so innovative and often humorous. (Her "Gluten Free" image was 2nd in the monochrome category in the LHCC year-end competition.) Pat indicated that she creates some of her images right from her kitchen table. She experiments with different lighting sources and subjects to photograph. "I spent a lot of time searching the house for interesting subjects to shoot. A simple chess board and some silly stick-on eyes amused me and my grand kids thought it was funny!" I agree!



Russ Lazar gets out to photograph quite often and finds places with plenty of open space and few people. Russ captures a variety of subjects with excellent lighting by going out in the early morning or late afternoon. His successful use of line and pattern can be seen in many of his images ("Remembered" and "ARTIC after Sunset" both won awards at the year-end competition). Recent photos show successful composition using similar techniques.



Stay busy and keep shooting! - continued

By Mike Bray

Lawrie Bau takes images in his home and safely distances from others when outdoors. Architecture is a favorite subject for Lawrie; his architectural images have won awards both this year and last in our year-end competitions.

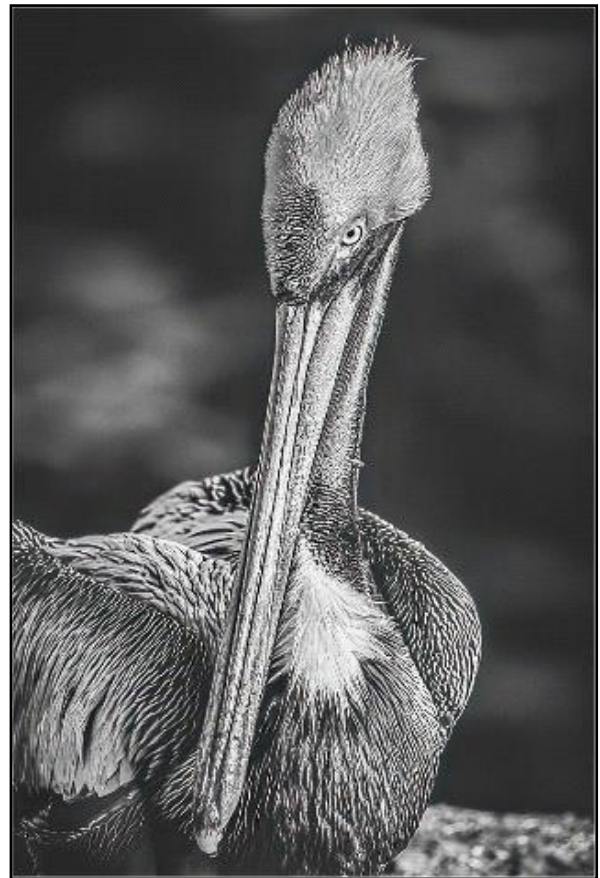


YOUR ARTICLES WANTED!

Team *Cameraderie* is looking for any articles you write on any topic related to photography. If you can write any of these, why not share them with us so we can print them in the next issue? Email all to the Club's email:

cameraclubh@gmail.com, attn.: *Cameraderie*. Thank You!

George Harper likes to get out of the house and make a photo outing at least once a week. His most frequent destinations are Bolsa Chica Wetlands, San Joaquin Marsh, and Goldfish Point in La Jolla. These sights are great places for easy social distancing, great lighting opportunities early in the morning or late in the afternoon, and are top choices for bird and landscape photography. George's pelican image in "Strike Up the Band" was a Best of Show winner in the 2019 print critique.



To be continued...

"All photographs are accurate. None of them is the truth." - *Richard Avedon*

Club's News & Announcements

By Joel Goldstein and
Mary-Rose Hoang

Announcements

- *Camera Club of Laguna Woods CA— Photo Sharing:* The Camera Club has created this new private group on Facebook as a forum for all members to share their photos and ask for feedback. Login to Facebook, select Join and answer the question about your name (if your FB name is not your name, state your real name used by the Camera Club.) An administrator will approve your request within 24 hours or sooner.
- *Next critique: Jan 25; Special Subject: Photojournalism.* “Photojournalism entries consist of images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. The journalistic (storytelling) value of the image shall receive priority over pictorial quality.” All submissions are due by Wednesday 01/20/2021 at 5 pm.
- The *Club's Village TV* for January is presenting *Pat Wilkinson's* show of Village scenes, the Huntington Library and Gardens and the Clown College. Broadcasts are Wednesdays @ 11:30 am and Saturdays @ 10:30 am. Click on this [link](#) to view it.
- If you are new to Zoom which the Club uses to conduct all business during this pandemic, Evelyn Chang, VP of Education shares these two links to help you navigate Zoom: [Fun and Easy online Connection](#) and [A Cozy Step-by-Step Guide](#). For any further questions, email her at evelyn.gc03@gmail.com
- The Club's schedule of events for 2021 is available on the Club's website, [Meeting Schedule page](#).
- *A Baker's Half Dozen* class will be taught on January 25 & 26 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm both days. Free to members. To register send your name, email address, phone number and camera brand and model to cameraclubb@gmail.com, Attn: Education. You will be sent a Zoom invitation.

Past Events

- *The Club's Annual Holiday event* was held online via Zoom on December 8, 2020. The new Board of Directors was presented as well as winners of the year-end competition and recipient of the Lydia Savedoff Memorial Award were announced.
- At the Club's Annual Holiday event, pictures sent in by members were shown in a slideshow. Click [here](#) to view it.
- The Orange County Register newspaper has written an article about our Club's year-end winning photos and winners. Click [here](#) to read it online or [here](#) to download.



Club's News & Announcements - continued

*By Joel Goldstein and
Mary-Rose Hoang*

Future Events

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

- Monday February 08, 2021: showcase by Jami Tarris.
- Monday February 22, 2021: showcase by Mike Bray.
- Monday March 08, 2021: showcase by Pat Burr.
- Monday March 22, 2021: Digital Critique; Special Subject: Altered Reality. All submissions are due Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 5 pm.
- In February the Village TV will show two videos by Bette and George Harper at the usual time slots. If you are not Village residents, click on this [link](#) to view "The Wedge" by George, and this [link](#) to watch "Death Valley" by Bette and George.

A Good Read...

The OC Register newspaper has an article about "Preserving Old Memories One Image at a Time" which has loads of information on digitizing your old photos. Click [here](#) to read the article. You can learn what Club members Russ Lazar and Joel Goldstein, among other contributors, have done to preserve their family old photos. Laura Hoffman, an Emeritus Institute instructor, also gave good advice on safekeeping family photographs.

Welcome to Our New Members October - December 2020

Jim Dilonardo
Bruce Smith

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



A Little Humor....

Shared by Joel Goldstein



*Be Careful when photographing near
water!*



Until next time, Stay Safe!