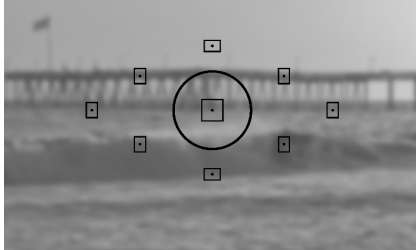


Through the Viewfinder



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From the Prez's Pad

Sal Santangelo

August 2015

Summertime is frequently thought of as being a slow time, a time to relax, sip iced tea (or stronger... I have a preference for gin and tonic), partake of leisure time activities. If I look at my calendar these days, I wonder whether I (or the world) have forgotten it's summer or things have changed unbeknownst to me. (Actually my wife says I have been out of touch for some time.) There are still work obligations, VCCC activities including this article, a day at the fair with grandma and grandpa, our family tradition of a beach week, recent family medical issues, other nonprofit activities, and upcoming preparations for a trip to Morocco and Spain. I would suspect I am not the only person wondering what happened to the good old summertime.

Just to be sure that all know, we now have our certificate of incorporation from the state. We still need to pursue our tax exempt status. Most importantly, we need someone to volunteer to be Secretary for the organization. This would not be burdensome. If you are interested or want to find out what the duties might entail please talk to me at the meeting, or email me, salsurg@aol.com.

The assigned topic for August is Photojournalism. Be prepared to tell us a story. Our judge will be an old true friend of the club, Dan Holmes.

The Ventura County Fair will have opened by the time we meet, Wednesday August 12th. Let me know if you received a recognition and send me the image. I would like to report as well as show your accomplishment to the members.

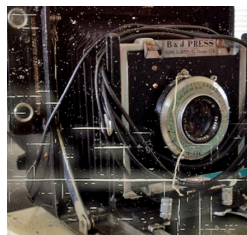


Prez Pad (cont'd)

I wish all those submitting images to the VC Fair good luck. Your artistry reflects well on our club. Thank you.

You may recall that I spoke of a club history, of sorts, that Bernie had found amongst the old club files. It was written by Joyce La Mers. If any of you know of her (or any of the people she mentions in the history) be prepared to give us a little historical background info at our meeting. I am serializing it, half in this newsletter, the other half for the September newsletter since I will be gone. It made me appreciate those who so generously contributed to making the club successful but who also resurrected it so we could enjoy its benefits. It is also pretty funny! I hope you enjoy it.

- Sal



(ed - below is from an old document found in the Club *football*)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF V3C

By Joyce La Mers, the Longest Lasting Member

The Ventura County Camera Club has been in existence for at least 50 years, and probably a lot more than that. The late Florence Johnston's husband was an early president, possibly the first. I have no real information about what went on before I joined in 1974. At that time our club was affiliated with the Southern California Conference of Camera Clubs (S4C) and functioned as a sort of satellite for the primary organization in Los Angeles, sending entries to monthly contests down south as well as conducting our own monthly competitions here in Ventura.

Judging for the Ventura club was done by official S4C judges from L.A., usually three people, who judged according to rigid S4C rules and were often pretty hidebound. A representative from S4C attended each of our meetings and took the winning slides back to L.A. when she went home so she could enter them in other S4C contests for us. In due course, if we were lucky, the slides would be brought back to us with suitable award ribbons and would be mentioned in the S4C newsletter. (There was no V3C newsletter.) Often, however, it was difficult to get slides returned, for reasons that became all too clear later.

The club had a president and other officers, but the woman from S4C handled all competition matters. She was very dedicated; although she lived in Glendale, she never missed a meeting and was conscientious about bringing judges to Ventura. She also headed a V3C committee which handled all photography entries for the Ventura County Fair each year – taking in entries, getting judges, arranging for print and slide displays, and babysitting the exhibit during Fair hours. The club did all this for several years.

Alas, disaster struck. The dedicated S4C representative grew overly dedicated, apparently, and was caught red-handed by S4C entering other photographers' slides in the L.A. competitions under her own name. This probably explained why we weren't getting our slides returned. She was retired in disgrace, leaving the Ventura club in a state of complete disorganization since she had pretty much been running it. V3C was kaput.

Into this vacuum stepped Virgil Ketner, who pulled together a few members determined to get the club going again. There were only six of us, as I recall, at that first meeting in December of 1979. One of our first decisions was to cut ourselves completely loose from S4C. We also loosened our ties to the Photographic Society of America (PSA) whose standard entry categories we had been using up to then. We decided to create our own categories. We wrote up a new set of rules, essentially the same rules we use today. They have served us well.

The club never again ran the Ventura County Fair photography exhibit, but club members have continued to win many awards each year as contestants.

(To be continued...)

(ed - Photobakobob has returned from Portugal and Spain and he has a lot to report!)

Photographic *Musings* with Photobakobob

“Images and People”

Barbra Streisand sang that “people who need people are the luckiest people in the world.” And we photographers frequently need people. Sometimes we need them in our image frames; other times we really need them to be somewhere else. My wife Heidi and I travel a lot. Recently we went to Portugal and Spain; last year to Israel and Jordan. Some think we have been everywhere. That is almost, but not quite accurate, but we are working on it. A travel upside for photographers is the many image opportunities. The downside is the itinerary. Although patience is a photographic virtue, it is difficult to maintain when a schedule has to be met.

Thus, when I want to capture that iconic image (from my own point of view, of course), that gaggle of tourists from Memphis or Moscow may not enhance my artistic vision. I’m sure that we all have experienced this. Indeed, we have likely been in the path of someone else’s perfect image more than a few times.

Here’s some of my approaches to this problem. I won’t call them solutions.

If you really want a pure – no people – image, go early or late if you can, or just wait patiently if possible. I captured this image in the Alcazar in Seville recently just by waiting few minutes for the room for clear out. You also can shoot above or around people. Precise composition can yield good results. Luck helps, too, so does speed.

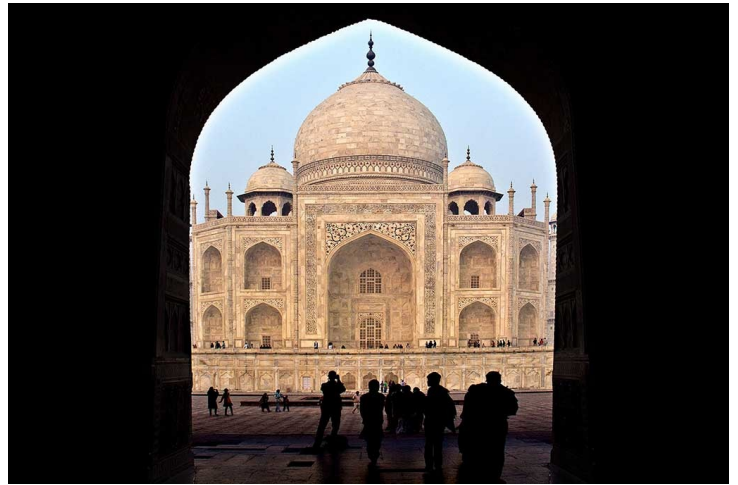


Another approach is to use the magic tools of Photoshop of remove some or all of portions of the images that you feel are damaging your composition. Note these two images of the main square of Delft. Most of the people are still there in the right image, but two have disappeared...



Musings (cont'd)

You can remove all of the people from an image, too, but sometimes that can be challenging. If the result is worth the work – or the image is sufficiently “iconic,” you might want to invest the time and effort. Here’s an example, the Taj Mahal. I know it’s a photographic cliché, but if you go there, you gotta take it, and I removed all people from the image. However, I took another shot, one in which I left the people in silhouette. This brings up my point below – that if you can’t (or don’t want to) eliminate people from the image, it is best to use them to enhance it, provide a sense of place and time, or even a little humor.



Cropping is a tried and true method of emphasizing the more important aspects of images. Here’s an example, taken at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, of eliminating some people from the frame so that the person of interest is more clearly apparent, at the cost - in this case - of losing some context.



Musings (cont'd)

Or, use people to enhance the image. Here's some examples.

The main square in Bruges (*right*) with a large group of tourists sitting around the fountain. Since this is a tourist mecca, why not put the tourists in the image? They seem to have arranged themselves quite artistically, too.



A lane in the Old City of Jerusalem (*below*). The image might have been interesting without any people, but I think it is better with the silhouette of the man and his son walking along the passage.



Musings (cont'd)

A street scene in India. The gentleman and his context complement each other, strengthening the overall image.



Most of us do like to capture images of people, and when we travel, we try to do that within the context of their cultures. A group of children posing for the camera in Jaipur, India...



Musings (cont'd)



A young mother and her children in Puskar, India

Speaking of culture, often nothing expresses it more eloquently than animals. This camel (below) at the Pushkar Camel Fair says “buy me.” But I didn’t. A bit too big for the carry-on...



Photobakobob

2015 Suggested Photo Opportunities

Individuals can use this information as suggested ideas/destinations for doing their own photography. The items shown in [color](#) are the ones that people have expressed the greatest interest in doing. There are people in the club that have been to most of these destinations in the past few years, and can advise on what you should expect to see and do.

Whatever you do, mark your calendars, don't miss the **Pt Mugu Air Show** with the [Navy Blue Angels](#), **Sept 26-27**. Admission and parking are free. *Today there are only a few remaining big league thundering jet shows like this performed anywhere in the world, and the Navy Blue Angels is one of the best... it is scheduled to be in Ventura County this late September. Typically, the public has to drive hundreds of miles each year to see an event of this magnitude, so don't miss it! Obviously a telephoto lens and a steady hand helps to get the best images at an air show.*



Blue Angels - Photo by Ken MacGregor

Within 45 miles:

[Loons Beach \(Summerland\)](#)
[El Matador Beach \(Malibu\)](#)
 Ventura Mission
 Local Ventura Beach - Sunset
 Local Ventura Surfers (waterfront promenade)
[Local Downtown Ventura Architecture](#)
[Nite Shooting Downtown Ventura Main Street](#)
[Ventura City Hall](#)
[Butterfly Grove - Santa Barbara \(Nov-Feb\)](#)
[Santa Barbara Zoo](#)
 Getty Museum/Center
 Anacapa Island (Island Packers Ventura Marina)
 Topanga Park
 Santa Barbara Mission
[Santa Barbara Botanical Garden](#)
[Pt Mugu Air Show, Sept 26-27](#)

Less than 100 miles:

Hollywood at Night
[Griffith Observatory at Sunset](#)
 Morrow Bay

More than 100 miles:

Pt Lobos State Beach (Monterey/Carmel)
 Mono Lake
 Huntington Beach
 Yosemite National Park
 Kings Canyon
 Sequoia Park
 Big Sur

[Wings Over Camarillo Air Show, Aug 22-23 !!!](#)
<http://wingsovercamarillo.com>

Club Announcements



Membership Renewal

Only members in good standing may submit images for judging. Important! We are checking! If necessary, please talk to **Joyce Schoppe**, our Membership Chairperson, at the next meeting, or send an email to Joyce at:

membership@venturacountycameraclub.com

Note that at the March Club meeting the members voted (nearly unanimously) to increase the annual membership fee by an additional \$20 to cover announced increases by the Poinsettia Pavilion for the second half of the year plus some other expenses. **If you have not already done so, please provide Joyce with the additional \$20 by cash or check at the next meeting.**

Instructions for Digital Projection Entries!

Please **ensure** your files are correctly labelled in accordance with the required format: (this is not new!)

Required: **LastnameFirstname_IMAGE TITLE_month-year_category.jpg**

example... **SmithJohn_ENTER AT OWN RISK_03-15_Assigned.jpg**

JohnsonRobert_WILD WEST_04-15_Open.jpg

All images submitted for projection must be in jpg format with pixel dimensions not to exceed 1024 width and/or not to exceed 768 height (1024x768). Images that exceed either of these dimensions will not be shown.

Images must be emailed to: digitalentries@venturacountycameraclub.com no later than 6:00 pm on the Monday prior to the meeting.

Please Share Your Images!

The digital Merit Award images from the previous meeting are normally displayed in each month's Newsletter. If you want to share any of your special images, or **PRINT MERITS** in the Newsletter, please send the digital image files to: editor@venturacountycameraclub.com

Club Announcements (cont'd)

2015 Topic Assignment Schedule:

January: Eyes, the Window to the Soul

February: Texture

March: Golden Hour

April: Animal Close Ups (Wild or Domestic)

May: No Assignment - prints only competition

June: Architectural Details

July: Reflection Story

August: Photojournalism

September: No Assignment - prints only competition

October: Movement / Motion Blur

November: Autumn Colors

December: No Assignment - No Meeting - "End of Year" prints only competition

2015 Refreshment Schedule:

JAN - John Ferritto

FEB: Bernie Goldstein

MAR - Sal Santangelo

APR - Bryan McCall

MAY - Allyson Barnes

JUN - Bruce & Joyce Schoppe

JUL - Les Collier

AUG - David Paumier

SEP - JP Watson

OCT - Ken MacGregor

NOV - Marie Frick

Club Announcements (cont'd)

Club Meeting Info:

Please come to the next meeting of the **Ventura County Camera Club** on...

Wednesday, August 12th, at 7 pm, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003.

Our scheduled Judge for August is: Dan Holmes

A California Professional Landscape Photographer of the Year

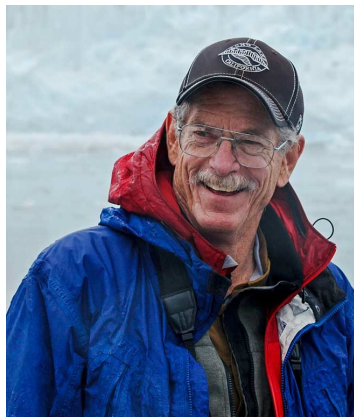
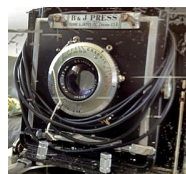


Photo by Ken MacGregor

Dan is a local Ventura resident and professional photographer, and he is looking for a limited number of participants to accompany him on a special photo safari expedition to Namibia Africa in 2016. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to photograph African wildlife and exotic landscapes with a local professional expert. He says he needs commitments soon (August!) to reserve accommodations for anyone going on the trip with him in 2016.

See the next page for Dan's Namibia flyer. If you are interested in going on this African Photo Safari with Dan, he will be available to answer questions at the end of our meeting on August 12th.



Club Announcements (cont'd)



The Namib Desert,
A Photographic Safari in
Namibia, Africa
With Dan Holmes
February 21-March 5, 2016



Namibia is a vast country, even by African standards, covering an area approximately four times the size of the United Kingdom but with a population of a mere 2 million - one of the lowest densities in the world. It is also an 'ageless land'; visible through its heritage of rock art created by stone-age artists and geological attractions such as the petrified forest where fossilized tree trunks have lain for over 280 million years. Added to the space and silence, these all contribute to a feeling of antiquity, solitude and wilderness.



This Photography Safari affords you the chance to experience this magnificent and memorable country in a very personal way. You will have your own professional and experienced safari guide who will enhance your enjoyment of this unique country by making it a fascinating and stress-free journey of discovery amidst very dramatic scenery.



Contact Dan for more information:
805-701-5559 cell
danholmesphoto@gmail.com

Top Photo courtesy of Bob Bush
all others:
Creative Commons



Future Club Workshops at the Poinsettia: (mark your calendar!)

Sept 23 - Dan Holmes

"The Elusive Landscape"

Finding, connecting and creating landscape photos

A Professional Landscape Photographer of the Year

Oct 28 - Bob Smith

"Something to Think About"

Showing his personal work

Brooks Institute Teacher

Exploration - B&W and color

Feb 2016 and Mar 2016 - Hutch

"Flash Lighting" Using portable flash photography

WWW.VENTURACOUNTYCAMEACLUB.COM

Merit Awards

Results of July 2015 Meeting

Judge: Chris Zsarney

Digital - Assigned:

"Red" by Chris Borel
"Reflecting On the Past" by Gregg Gillmar
"Bridge to Tranquility" by Susannah Kramer
"Dublin At Night" by Susannah Kramer
"Mudflat Sunset Maine" by Ron Lindsay
"Bad Water Reflection" by Sal Santangelo

Digital - Open:

"Painted Anenome" by Chris Borel
"Art Pots" by John Ferritto
"Bee At Work" by Gregg Gillmar
"A Tree Along the Way" by Phil Knepper
"Lonely Photographers Evening Shot" by Phil Knepper
"River Crossing" by Phil Knepper
"Color Riot" by Ken MacGregor
"Dark & Stormy" by Ken MacGregor
"Forest Friend" by Bryan McCall
"Old Coast Road" by Sal Santangelo

Prints - Assigned:

"A Good Day To Stay Indoors" by Albert Huen
"Early Bird Special" by Albert Huen
"Seeing God" by Albert Huen
"Stacks-O-Yaks" by JP Watson

Prints - Open:

"Gotcha" by Hal Epstein
"Sword Dance" by Hal Epstein
"Free Parking @ Amigo's" by Bernie Goldstein
"Heavy Smoker" by Bernie Goldstein
"Ready To Party" by Bernie Goldstein
"KEEPOUT" by Sharon Kolsch



"Painted Anemone" by Chris Borel



"Red" by Chris Borel



"Art Pots" by John Ferritto



"Bee At Work" by Gregg Gillmar



"Reflecting On the Past" by Gregg Gillmar



"A Tree Along the Way" by Phil Knepper



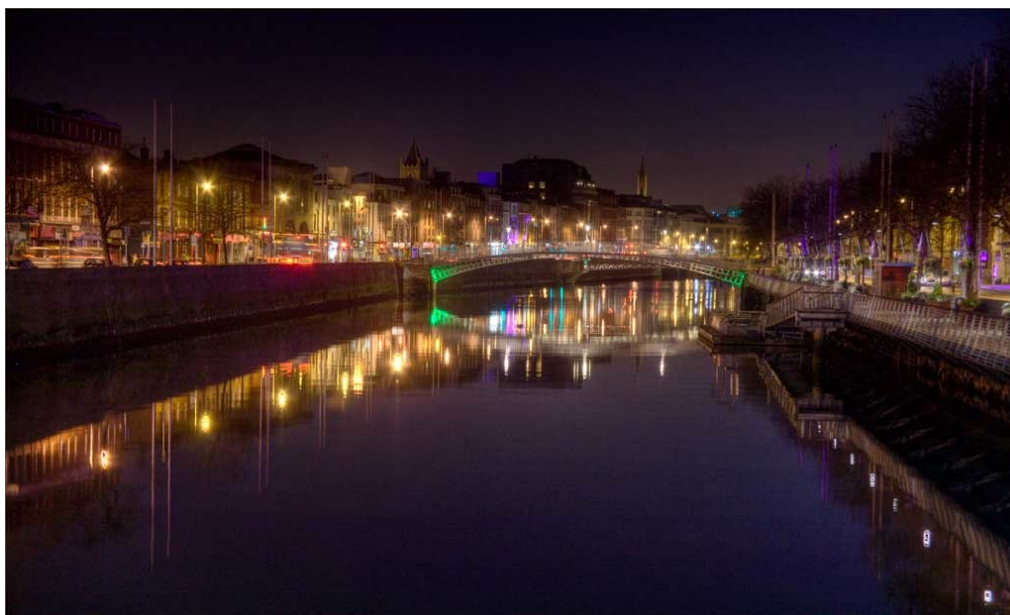
“Lonely Photographers Evening Shot” by Phil Knepper



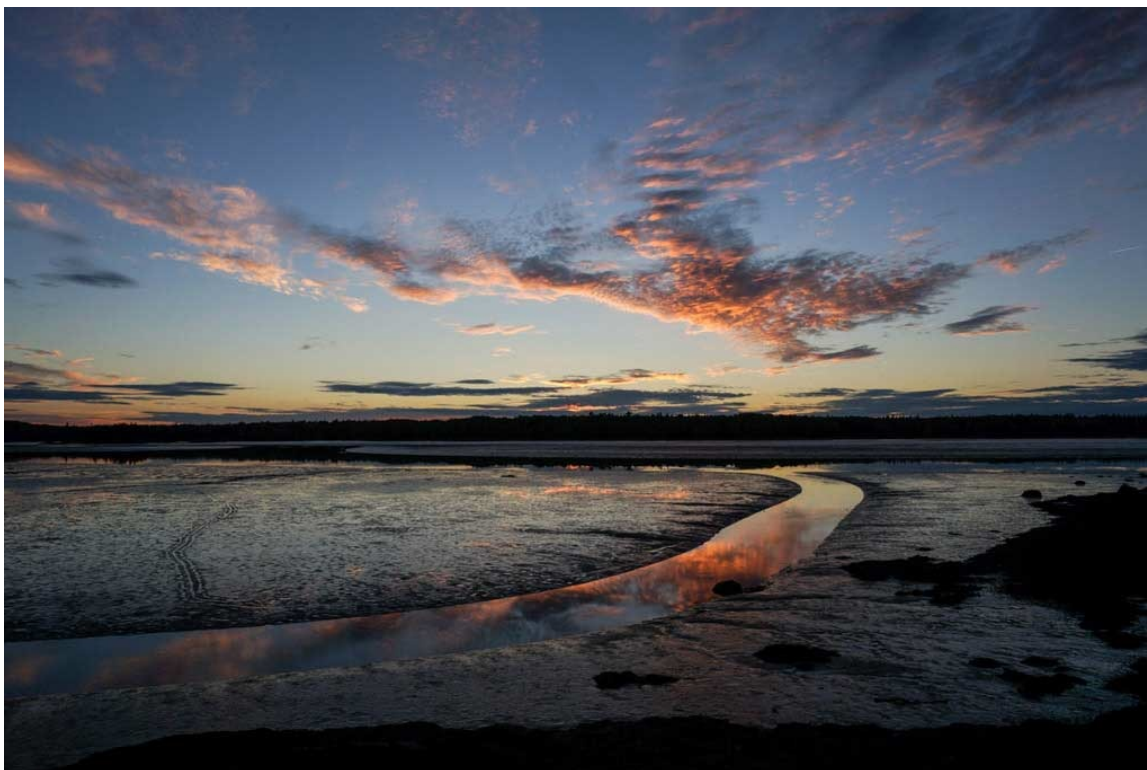
“River Crossing” by Phil Knepper



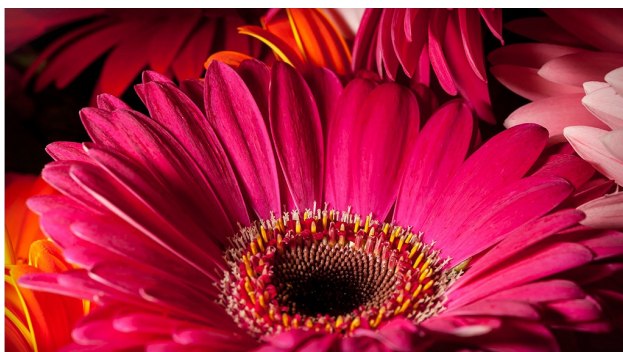
"Bridge to Tranquility" by Susannah Kramer



"Dublin At Night" by Susannah Kramer



"Mudflat Sunset Maine" by Ron Lindsay



"Color Riot" by Ken MacGregor



"Dark & Stormy" by Ken MacGregor



“Bad Water Reflection” by Sal Santangelo



“Old Coast Road” by Sal Santangelo



“Forest Friend” by Bryan McCall



“Heavy Smoker” by Bernie Goldstein



“Free Parking @ Amigo’s” by Bernie Goldstein



“Ready To Party” by Bernie Goldstein

10 Photography Quotes:

(thanks JP!)

“ You don’t take a photograph, you make it. – *Ansel Adams*

“Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst. – *Henri Cartier-Bresson*

“Beauty can be seen in all things, seeing and composing the beauty is what separates the snapshot from the photograph. – *Matt Hardy*

“Nothing happens when you sit at home. I always make it a point to carry a camera with me at all times...I just shoot at what interests me at that moment. – *Elliott Erwitt*

“Which of my photographs is my favorite? The one I’m going to take tomorrow. – *Imogen Cunningham*

“You’ve got to push yourself harder. You’ve got to start looking for pictures nobody else could take. You’ve got to take the tools you have and probe deeper. – *William Albert Allard*

“If I saw something in my viewfinder that looked familiar to me, I would do something to shake it up. – *Garry Winogrand*

“I always thought good photos were like good jokes. If you have to explain it, it just isn’t that good. – *Anonymous*

“It can be a trap of the photographer to think that his or her best pictures were the ones that were hardest to get. – *Timothy Allen*

and last but not least...

“Twelve significant photographs in any one year is a good crop. – *Ansel Adams*



Other Announcements

Ojai Photo Club:

The Ojai Photo Club welcomes Ray Powers, Ojai's multitalented composer, songwriter and photographer. He will present "Monks and Mandalas" at the August meeting of the Ojai Photo Club. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 Santa Ana Street, Ojai, CA.

A fusion of images, music and storytelling, the presentation documents the visit of the Tibetan monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery to Ojai in May of this year. Powers follows their meditative construction of a sand painting of the Buddha of Compassion and then its ceremonial destruction.

For further info, contact: Myrna Cambianica
(805) 646-8405
photomyrna@sbcglobal.net

2015 VC Fair:

VC Fair photography exhibit runs August 5-16. A reminder that entered photos must be picked up on Monday, August 17 between 12:00 - 7:00 PM.

Best of luck to any of our VCCC members who are participating this year - *JP*.

Professional Support

Below are some of the local professional photographers that have been gracious in providing their free time as judges to attend and critique member's images at our recent Club meetings. Thank you all for supporting our Club!

Sherron Sheppard:

<http://www.sherronsheppard.com> <http://www.sheppardphotography.com>

Dan Holmes Photography Workshops, Tours, and Photo Adventures:

<http://www.danholmesphoto.com/Danholmesphoto.com/Workshops.html>

Robert Fields Fine Art Travel Photography

<http://www.robertfields.com>

Mark Jansen (& Holly Higbee-Janzen) Photography and Expedition Workshops:

<http://www.jansenphotoexpeditions.com/Pages/default.aspx>

Sam and Patricia Gardner - Medici Portraiture Studio

<http://www.mediciportraiture.com/about-medici-portraiture/meet-the-artists-sam-patricia-gardner-fine-art-photographer>

Gary Moss Photography - (Gary is Photo Editor of 805 Living Magazine)

<http://www.garymossphotography.com>

Chris Zsarnay - Z Studios

<http://www.zstudios.com>

Greg Cooper - Brooks Institute

email: gcooper@brooks.edu

Bill Hendricks - Ventura College

<http://www.hendricks-studios.com>

Matt Haines

<http://matthainesphotography.com>

Ines Roberts

<https://sites.google.com/site/cccccangle/bios/ines-roberts>



Camarillo Air Show Merit Image by Ken MacGregor

Club Officials for 2015

President:

Sal Santangelo

Vice President:

Ken MacGregor

Treasurer:

Susannah Kramer

Judge Coordinator:

Bernie Goldstein

Memberships:

Joyce Schoppe

Website:

Ilka Boogaard

Newsletter:

Ken MacGregor

Digital Image Entries:

Albert Huen

Workshops:

Denise Wenger

Photo Opportunities:

JP Watson