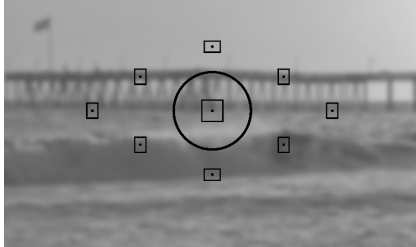


Through the Viewfinder



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From the Prez's Pad

Sal Santangelo

March 2016

My comments will be brief this month. Because of extenuating circumstances, I was unable to make the Flash Workshop. Bernie hosted in my absence and told me it was well attended and that Hutch's presentation was informative and well received. Part II comes next month, Wednesday March 23rd. Thanks to Hutch Hutchison, and also to Bernie for covering my absence.

I hope all of you have had the opportunity to look at the websites of Theo Allofs and Jami Tarris. They are obviously accomplished photographers but also committed to conservation and supporting the safeguarding of endangered species. Let's make this not only a photo event for us but also a recruitment tool for new members. Besides inviting friends, if you have ideas on how to publicize this event to the public, communicate them to your club leadership. More importantly, if you have writing skills, how about using the information on their personal websites, www.theoallofs.com and www.jamitarris.com, as well as their company website, www.focusexpeditions.com, to create a news release. If you have the skills, put a couple of images from their websites into the article. Newspapers love pre-written articles and are more likely to print them. There are two messages we can use in promoting this event. There is the artistic aspect of their photography and also the impact of their photography to advance their message for conservation and protection of endangered species.

I will be out of town for the next couple of weeks. I leave the club in the capable hands of Ken MacGregor. Our topic is "Macro...of anything". Our judge/instructor is Robert Fields.

Hope to see you at the Flash Workshop Part II.

- Sal



Musings with Photobakobob

“Gear, Continued”

More photography is happening than ever before. According to mylio.com, about a trillion photographic images were taken in 2015, and that number is expected to increase to 4.9 trillion by 2017. That should be great news for companies such as Nikon, Canon, and Sony, but that's only until we hear the bad news. Most of those images will be captured by cellphones, almost 80% by 2017 says mylio.com. Indeed, there are even a few professional wedding photographers using cellphones in their work!

It is, then, somewhat of a relief to those of us who still want to use “real” cameras that traditional camera manufacturers continue to introduce new and innovative products, and the past year or so wasn't bad in that regard. In this article, I'll talk about a few of the products that I thought were notable.



The Sony Alpha 7RII is the obvious first one on the list. It is a full frame mirrorless SLR (SLT, technically), and Sony's most advanced one yet. It has a very high resolution at 42 MP, but what impresses me most is its built-in stabilization (5-axis) so one can use non-stabilized lenses, very high maximum ISO along with wide dynamic range, and outstanding phase detection autofocus. Like other cameras utilizing an electronic viewfinder, though, its battery life leaves something to be desired. A strong selling point is that it allows the use of Canon lenses with the addition of an adapter. The downside of the adapter is that it is bulky, adds about 5 oz., limits the utility of the autofocus system, costs \$400, and, according to some reports, may not work well for all lenses. For you video folks (I am not –yet.) the Alpha 7RII also produces 4K video. It has received excellent reviews and was dpreview.com's Product of the Year in 2015.



A very different kind of camera – at a much lower price point, too – is the Panasonic G7, the latest in a series. I once owned an earlier model, the G5 and, although I liked it, I sold it when I purchased a more advanced four-thirds model, an Olympus (see below). As indicated, the G7 is a four-thirds camera. That means it and its lenses are both smaller and lighter than full frame SLR/SLT's. For example, a G7 with a Panasonic 14-140mm zoom lens (28-280mm equivalent) weighs about 1.5 lb. The same camera/lens combination for a SLR, whether full frame or APS, would be about double that weight, and much bulkier, too. The G7 is not quite up to the Sony in image quality, but it is pretty good, comparable for most purposes to APS SLR's in the same price range. It also has 4K video capability. You can carry the whole kit, including extra lenses, in a small bag without straining your back. I think it is a great value at about \$500 for the body, less than a sixth of the price of the Sony.



Musings with Photobakobob (cont'd)

I have to mention the Olympus OMD EM5 II. I have the previous model, the one without the "II." It, like the Panasonic G7, is a four-thirds camera, but maybe a level above the Panasonic. Olympus added some nice features in the new model, such a fully articulated LCD, better internal stabilization, an electronic shutter, a better (but not built -in) flash unit, and improved user options, but It still has the original 16MP detector. Maybe next time. I like the camera, but I still sometimes struggle to find what I need in the menu. My major gripe is battery life. Mine is rated at 360 exposures, but I never have managed more than about 200. I always need to carry a couple of spares for a day's shooting. Unfortunately, the new model's battery life rating is even less: 310. (I don't know about reality.) I deal with it, however, because it is light, compact, versatile, user-adaptable, and produces that aforementioned great image quality.

Now, for those who want to move up to the medium format leagues, there is the new Hasselblad H5D-50c. It comes with a 50 MP CMOS sensor (32.9x43.8mm) and Wi-Fi capability. If you want a lot of detail as well as dynamic range and do large landscape prints, this may be the camera for you. One shortcoming, however, is that while its shutter range on the long end is a remarkable 34 minutes but only 1/800 sec. on the fast side, somewhat slow. The good news, at least for today, is that the camera, with an f/2.8 80mm lens, is available for "only" \$19,100, an \$11,900 discount at BH Photo. Please form an orderly line.

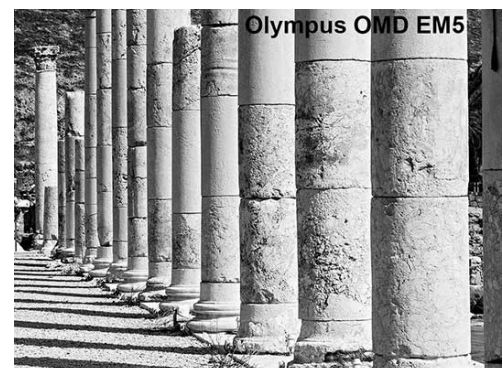
As a longtime Canon owner, am I encouraged by the recent introduction of two new models from my favorite company. I have been concerned that Canon has been lagging technologically behind Nikon and, especially, Sony. Thus, I welcomed the appearance of the Canon 1DX Mark II and 80D, particularly the latter. The 1DX Mark II, aimed at the pro market, is not in my price range, nor the kind of equipment I would want in any case. The appearance of EOS 80D, however, hints that Canon may be preparing announcements of upgrades of the cameras I am really interested in: the EOS 5D Mark III and/or EOS 6D. I own a 6D now, and although I like it, its focusing system and dynamic range both could use improvement. The 80D has a 45 point all cross-type focusing system and the dual pixel CMOS detector introduced with the 70D. It also increased the pixel count to 24MP. If those – and other improvements, including expanded dynamic range – can be brought to the 6D Mark II,

I cannot leave the subject of new gear without mentioning the latest full frame camera, the Pentax K-1. The price of full frame digital SLR's has been dropping and their capabilities have been increasing. This is the latest – and very impressive – example. Made by Ricoh, the camera has a 36 MP CMOS detector, 5-axis internal stabilization, 33-point AF system, Wi-Fi, GPS, magnesium alloy, weather-sealed, and a bunch of other features. It would be a great value for \$3000, but it lists at \$1800! The camera is still new and untested by users but it certainly looks impressive. One issue, however, is lens availability, since it uses K-mount lenses. That could change over time, and someone might make a sophisticated adapter, like the one for Sony. (Less capable adapters are now available.)

Well, there's some stuff you might think about. For more detail, complete reviews, etc., go to places like www.dpreview.com, *Popular Photography*, other sites and publications, and, of course, the manufacturer's web sites. The latter, strangely enough, often don't have as much information as other sources. I've never understood that.

Have fun.

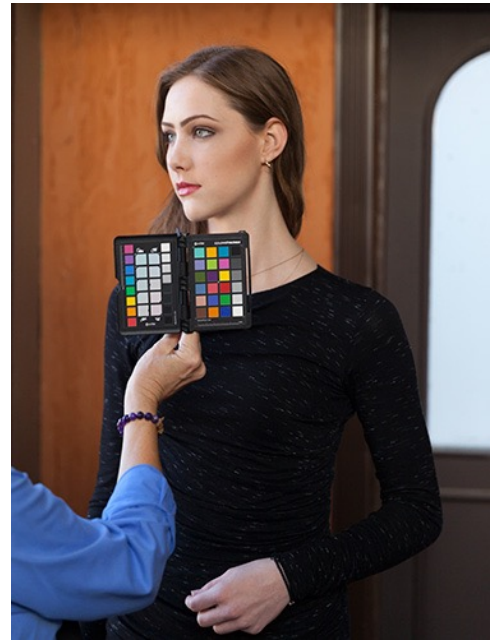
Photobakobob



Exploring Digital Photography with Photonaut

Getting Accurate Color

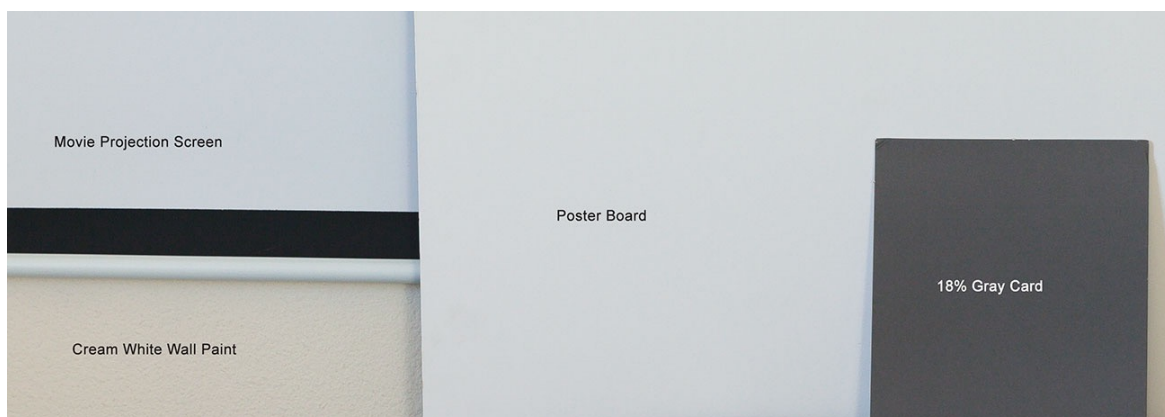
In many situations, it is difficult to get the color balance of an image correct, especially when shooting with light that has reflected off of walls, buildings, lawns, etc. Reflected light picks up the color of whatever it is reflecting from. The color of the light source itself (sun, strobe, LED, florescent, tungsten, etc) can also be all over the map. The human eye automatically adjusts constantly for color shifts, but the camera doesn't, unless set to Automatic White Balance, and then it usually doesn't do it very well, at least not well enough for polished professional looking results.



The best way to reproduce color accurately is to shoot RAW and use a calibrated gray card, like the proverbial 18% Gray Card, or to use a color reference chart, like the x-rite Color Checker shown here. With either reference, use the White Balance eye dropper tool in the RAW converter screen to easily and accurately correct the color temperature to neutral white. I always carry a gray card in my camera bag and shoot a test image placing the card near the subject.

You can use a 18% gray card to also get a camera light meter reading, but remember to increase the exposure half a stop brighter because most digital cameras use 12.5% as the mid gray point, unlike cameras shooting film that used 18%.

Here is another example showing the color balance question. Which white is right? I recently bought a movie projection screen and as soon as I opened it up, I thought it looked blue-ish, especially in a room illuminated by light reflected off my cream white walls. I took a snapshot, and in the RAW converter I used the white balance tool on the 18% gray card. Sure enough, the screen still looks a little bit blue, but not enough to worry about it or to send it back.



Computer Guy

I came across a web site which offers free software. Wait! Wait! I know nothing in life is free. But this is pretty close. Each day the web site sends you an email with the description of a software application which is normally sold by the originator. For that day only, one can download a copy of the software and install it. You have to complete the download and installation on that day ONLY. The web site uses your email to give you the download link and I am sure they will send you spam. I have created an email address (Yahoo, Gmail or Hotmail are all available free) specifically for this type of junk mail. The link is:

<http://www.giveawayoftheday.com/>

The programs vary with many being utilities for making DVDs or audio files etc. Most are of no interest to me but occasionally there are a few are of interest to a photographer. I have downloaded "Vintager" which can be used to put frames around jpg files, "Abstract Curves" which creates abstract patterns, "Color Projects" which does automatic correction of images, "Inpaint" which creates masks for content removal. Many of these operations can be performed in Photoshop but I like the standalone feature for quick adjustments. Two were especially good, "Active Presenter" and "Slide Show 7" both of which can be used to make videos of collections of images similar to ProShow Producer. I suggest before downloading, you read what people have said about the program. A few times people have complained about installation problems of a particular software package.

Royalty free music can be downloaded free at the following web site:

<http://www.bensound.com/royalty-free-music>

Many of us watch YouTube videos often of training programs. I have often said I wish there was a way to download and save the video. Well I have found a web site that allows you to do that.

<http://peggo.co/>

When you find a YouTube video, right click and copy the URL (site address) then paste it into the box on the Peggo web page. You will be given the option of recording the audio track as an MP3 file or the whole video as an MP4 file.



Club Merit Awards

Results of February 2016 Meeting

Judge: [Chris Zsarney](#)

Digital Assigned:

“Angel Eyes” by Harry Banks
“Looking Thru You” by Bernie Goldstein
“Peregrine” by Ron Lindsay
“Shy Eye” by Ken MacGregor

Digital Open:

“Fishing for a Car - 2008 VW Bug \$800 OBO” by Chris Borel
“Downtown Cafe” by Ron Brubaker
“The Stand” by Ron Brubaker
“Zion Wilderness” by Ron Brubaker
“Flying Saucer Clouds” by Gregg Gillmar
“Vet With a Message” by Bernie Goldstein
“Yellow” by Bernie Goldstein
“Illuminating” by Ken MacGregor
“Learning to Walk” by Ken MacGregor
“Blue on Blue” by Sal Santangelo
“Cobbler” by Sal Santangelo

Print Assigned:

“Contemplation” by Albert Huen
“Here’s Looking at You” by Albert Huen
“So In Love” by Albert Huen

Print Open:

“Bracket Fungus” by Susannah Kramer
“Mr. Majestic” by Ed Pinsky



Club Merit Awards



“Angel Eyes” by Harry Banks



“Fishing for a Car - 2008 VW Bug \$800 OBO”
by Chris Borel



“Downtown Cafe” by Ron Brubaker



Club Merit Awards



“Zion Wilderness” by Ron Brubaker



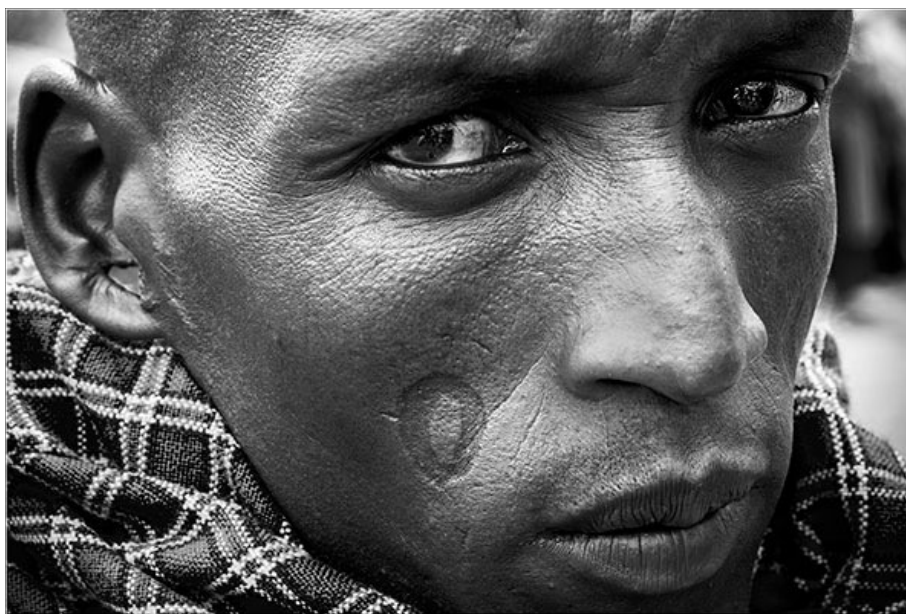
“Flying Saucer Clouds” by Gregg Gillmar



“The Stand” by Ron Brubaker



Club Merit Awards



"Looking Thru You" by Bernie Goldstein



"Yellow" by Bernie Goldstein



"Vet With a Message" by Bernie Goldstein



Club Merit Awards



“Peregrine” by Ron Lindsay



“Illuminating” by Ken MacGregor



“Learning to Walk” by Ken MacGregor



Club Merit Awards



“Shy Eye” by Ken MacGregor



“Blue on Blue” by Sal Santangelo



“Cobbler” by Sal Santangelo



Club Announcements

Club Meeting Info:

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

Wednesday, March 9th, at 7 pm, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003.

Our Scheduled Judge for March is: **Robert Fields**

<http://www.robertfields.com>

Future Club Events at the Poinsettia:

March 30th 2016 - "Flash Lighting - Part 2" Workshop by Hutch Hutchison

Hands on flash photography. Part two of the series. Bring your equipment!

Please note that this is one week later than our usual Workshop Wednesday.

April 27th 2016 - Special Presentation by Jami Tarris and Theo Allofs

Jami and Theo are professional landscape, travel, and wildlife photographers with a long list of impressive publications in which their images have appeared. The slide show will be with back stories and "how I did that" explanations, and can be as interactive as you, the audience, would like it to be. The public is invited to this event, so bring a friend!

Creative Video:

A 2 hour presentation entitled "Creating Photographic Impact".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUxXueESm9w>

Very well done and one that I feel would be well received by VCCC members!

--

Regards, Bernie Goldstein



Announcements

Ojai Photography Club

The Ojai Photography Club welcomes Ojai based photographer Logan Hall as its March presenter. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 Santa Ana Street, Ojai, CA. Specializing in real estate, portraiture, events and advertising, Hall was voted Best Photographer in the Ojai Valley News, Best of the Ojai Valley contest, for three consecutive years, 2013 through 2015.

The theme of Hall's presentation will be "Architectural Versus Real Estate Photography."



Nature Photography Master Class

Jami Tarris and Theo Allofs will be in Southern California the whole month of April. Theo is doing, at this time, only one masterclass. Although the cost is listed at \$350 they are offering a discount to photography club members and the cost will be \$280. The poster below has additional information.

Nature Photography Masterclass

with Theo Allofs

www.theoallofs.com

Topics for Wildlife Photography

- Conservation Issues
- Responsibilities as a Nature Photographer
- Equipment
- Practical Tips for Field Work
- Animal Portraits
- Animals in Landscapes
- Animals in Action
- The different Qualities of Light
- Wildlife Story Proposals for Publication

Topics for Landscape Photography

- Equipment
- Light (natural and artificial)
- Composition
- Landscapes from 15mm to 600mm
- Landscapes at Night
- Macro Photography

Theo has been a full-time professional photographer for over 30 years. Since 1995 he has specialized in nature photography (wildlife and landscapes). During his career he has received many international awards including eleven prizes in the renowned BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition. His work has been published worldwide in books, calendars, newspapers and magazines including National Geographic, New York Times, Newsweek, Time Magazine, GEO, Der Spiegel, Focus, Smithsonian, BBC Wildlife Magazine, Terre Sauvage and Australia Geographic. Theo has written numerous articles on photography in Outdoor Photographer, FOTO/Sweden, Australian Foto, PhotoLife/Canada. As a founding member of the ICP (International League of Conservation Photographers) much of his work deals with endangered species and conservation issues.

Saturday, April 23, 10 am - 4 pm
ProPhoto, Irvine, CA

Cost \$350,-
Early ticket purchase (until February 29) \$300,-
Lunch break on your own (60 min)



Club Announcements (cont'd)



Membership Renewal

Only members in good standing may submit images for judging. If necessary, please talk to **Joyce Schoppe**, our Membership Chairperson, or send an email to Joyce at:

membership@venturacountycameraclub.com

It is requested that you send your annual dues, \$60 (\$30 for students) to:

Joyce Schoppe
4875 Mascagni St.
Ventura, CA 93003

Instructions for Digital Projection Entries

Please **ensure** your files are correctly labelled in accordance with the required format:

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

example... **SmithJohn_ENTER AT OWN RISK_03-16_Assigned.jpg**

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

All images submitted for projection must be in jpg format with pixel dimensions **not to exceed: 1920 width and/or not to exceed 1080 height (1920x1080)**. This is the industry standard High Definition (HD) format, and is TWICE the resolution of before. Images that exceed either of these dimensions will not be shown.

Images submitted using the old resolution max format of 1024x768 will still work, but will appear *smaller* on the HD projector's screen.

Note that the new standard HD format is a slightly wider 16:9 ratio, versus the old standard 4:3 ratio (which was the equivalent of 12:9).

Club Announcements (cont'd)

2016 Assigned Topics List:

January:	Textures
February:	Eyes
March:	Macro (of anything)
April:	Bridges
May:	<i>No Assignment - Print Competition</i>
June:	Landscapes
July:	Night Lights
August:	Shadows
September:	<i>No Assignment - Print Competition</i>
October:	Black and White
November:	Architecture
December:	<i>No Assignment - No Meeting - Year End</i>

2016 Refreshment Schedule:

January:	Sal Santangelo
February:	Ron & Sally Brubaker
March:	Bernie Goldstein
April:	Joyce Schoppe
May:	Ed Nailor
June:	Wally Olsen
July:	Albert Huen
August:	Don Hoffman & Sharon Kolsch
September:	Art Leseberg
October:	Ken MacGregor
November:	Ed Pinsky



2016 Suggested Photo Opportunities

Individuals can use this information as suggested ideas/destinations for doing their own photography. There are people in the club that have been to most of these destinations in the past few years, and can advise you on what you should expect to see if you go there...

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 area
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

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!



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-Jansen) 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>



For Sale by Member -

Sekonic Flash Digi Master L-718 / Ambient Light Meter - Like New Condition

A multi-function digital ambient and flash meter for on location or in the studio use. Can be used to measure ambient light incident or reflected. Can be used to measure flash incident or reflected using wireless or cable - 2 modes. Features 1/10 step digital and 1/2 step analog readout, multi-directional dual pivot light receptor, memory functions, and rubberized covering. This unit is in excellent condition like new - it works.

Includes case, manual, strap - takes 2 AA battery

Price \$160

Call John Ferritto 805 647-2539 after 9 am and before 9 PM



2016 Club Officials

President:

Sal Santangelo

Vice President:

Ken MacGregor

Treasurer:

Susannah Kramer

Secretary:

Bruce Schoppe

Judge Coordinator:

Bernie Goldstein

Memberships:

Joyce Schoppe

Website:

Please Volunteer!

Newsletter:

Ken MacGregor

Digital Image Entries and

Projection:

JP Watson/Susannah Kramer

Publicity:

John Ferritto

Photo Opportunities:

JP Watson