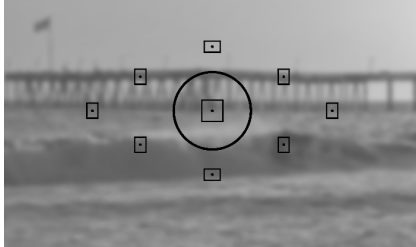


Through the Viewfinder



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From the Prez's Pad

Sal Santangelo

April 2017

"Spring has sprung, the grass is ris', I wonder where the birdies is? I need to change this childhood rhyme to "I wonder where the time is!" Hard to believe that it is already April. With the rain this year, the California hills and deserts are a bloom. The pictures I've been seeing are amazing, from Anza-Borrego State Park, the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve and the Carrizo Plain. I hope you are availing yourselves of the shooting opportunities. Your club organized two outing to the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve but it seems that only the organizers and 2 or 3 others took part. Makes me wonder how many members are interested in field trips. I realize that both scheduled days were weekdays which was done intentionally to avoid the large weekend crowds. This may have limited participation since many members work. We will have to explore this topic further.

I did go Friday March 24th. It was a bit magical to walk through a landscape carpeted with orange poppies. Having never been there before nor been in a similar setting I was overwhelmed and found I floundered in how to photograph it in other than a documentary fashion. Going to have to do this more often. I was also surprised to see an old club member who has since returned to Ridgecrest, Les Collier. It was fun to shoot with him and also get caught up on his adventures in his new (or old) home. Bruce and Joyce Schoppe made contact by phone but I didn't run into them. Albert, Ken and Susannah will have to fill you in on their experience.



Prez Pad (cont'd)

Came across an interesting article posted by DPS, Digital Photography School, entitled "5 Uncomfortable Truths about Photography. I thought you might be interested in reading it and have enclosed the link:

<https://digital-photography-school.com/5-uncomfortable-truths-photography>

Family issues have occupied my attention and will be taking precedent over the next few weeks. I would like to thank Ken MacGregor, Albert Huen and Susannah Kramer for stepping up and lessening my load.

The assigned topic for April is Abstracts and our judge/mentor will be Bill Hendricks. John Ferritto will be doing a short tutorial about creating your own website prior to the critique portion of the meeting.

Don't forget Gary Moss's assigned topic for May, either an Environmental Portrait or a Self-Portrait which he will also be critiquing. There will be no open images accepted for critique that month. I sent out the outline Gary presented at our March meeting. If anyone did not receive it please email me and I will send it to you.

Hopefully, I may see you 6:30 PM
Wednesday April 12, 2017.

Sal



"Poppies" by Ken MacGregor



Exploring Digital Photography with Photonaut

“Dynamic Range”

A lot has recently been written about “dynamic range”, with the general understanding that more/higher is better. The newest Sony, Nikon, and Canon cameras have been reported to have the best dynamic range, ever, even exceeding B&W negative film. Reasonable enough, except unfortunately there is no scientifically agreed upon established method of measuring it.

Dynamic Range generally indicates the difference between the highest light level recorded (bright), and the lowest light level recorded (black). The problem is the highest light level reading is obvious (white clipping to white nothing), whereas the lowest dark level reading is not, by a huge margin. Dark reading measurements are clouded by sensor noise, so at what cutoff do you declare the camera’s dark shot noise level to go below the camera’s dark level background noise (both of which can be seen on a screen?) Not to confuse things, but a given sensor’s performance also varies according to the overall ambient light levels, so some are excellent at low light levels at night, but less so at noon when light levels are high, others the opposite.

Recent press has indicated the Sony made image sensors in a few high end Sony cameras (like the Sony Alpha 7RII) are the cat’s meow as having the best dynamic range possible. Maybe so, unfortunately some laboratory measurements available on line indicate the Nikon D810 camera which also uses the Sony sensor actually has better dynamic range than the Sony camera by at least a half an f stop (1/2 EV).

In the last six months, Canon has reportedly incorporated the A to D converter onto their sensor image chip to reduce connection noise, which has resulted in a camera (5D Mk IV) that is very close to achieving the same dynamic range as the newest Sony/Nikon cameras. So, the new cameras - Canon 5D MkIV, Sony Alpha 7 RII, and the Nikon D810 are all now about the same, within about half an EV (f stop) of each other. Unfortunately, as previously stated, there is no agreed upon established method of measuring and verifying this.

One interesting practical change in using one of the new low noise sensor cameras is in high contrast situations you can underexpose your shots to obtain the highest dynamic range. You then increase the exposure in post, and there is little to no penalty in doing so. It used to be for old sensors that you should increase your exposure to the histogram right side to increase the signal to noise ratio, but since the noise is dramatically reduced with the newest sensors, that is no longer true. The newest low noise sensors are still subject to clipping from bright light, however, the darkest regions have dramatically lower noise levels than ever before, so it is an advantage to use that portion of the brightness spectrum when necessary.



Club Merit Awards

Results of March 2017 Critique & Judging

Judge: Gary Moss

Photo Editor 805 Living Magazine

Digital Assigned:

"Storm Surf" by Ron Brubaker
"Circling the Wagons" by Gregg Gillmar
"When Mud Collides" by James Hart
"Wind and Sand" by Susannah Kramer

Digital Open:

"Get the Point" by John Ferritto
"Night at the Fair" by John Ferritto
"Lonely Fisherman" by Gregg Gillmar
"Rocky Beach at Sunset" by Susannah Kramer
"The Photographer at Two and a Half" by James Peters
"Argus" by James Peters
"Life" by Robert Rose
"Walk" by Robert Rose
"Mellow Yellow" by Ed Ruckle

Print Assigned:

"True Believer" by Albert Huen
"I'd Rather Be Indoors" by Albert Huen

Print Open:

"Love of Color" by Bernie Goldstein



Club Merit Awards

Results of March 2017 Critique & Judging

Judge: Gary Moss, Photo Editor, 805 Living Magazine



"Storm Surf" by Ron Brubaker



"Circling the Wagons" by Gregg Gillmar



Club Merit Awards

Results of March 2017 Critique & Judging

Judge: Gary Moss



“Wind and Sand” by Susannah Kramer



“When Mud Collides” by James Hart



Club Merit Awards

Results of March 2017 Critique & Judging

Judge: Gary Moss



"Get the Point" by John Ferritto



"Night at the Fair" by John Ferritto



"Lonely Fisherman" by Gregg Gillmar



Club Merit Awards

Results of March 2017 Critique & Judging

Judge: Gary Moss



“Rocky Beach at Sunset” by Susannah Kramer



“Argus” by James Peters



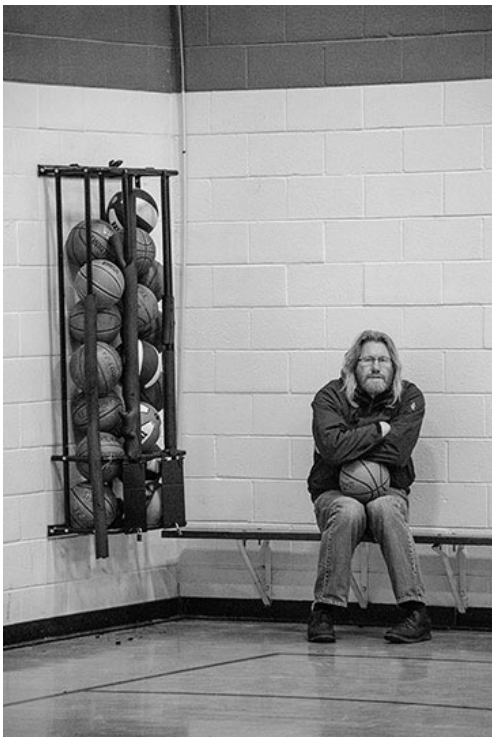
“The Photographer at Two and a Half” by James Peters



Club Merit Awards

Results of February 2017 Critique & Judging

Judge: Gary Moss



"Life" by Robert Rose



"Walk" by Robert Rose



"Mellow Yellow" by Ed Ruckle



Other Announcements

From Ojai Photo Club --

The Ojai Photography Club will go interactive in its April meeting, featuring guest presenter **Dean Zatkowsky** - and members of the audience - in "Ojai's Top Model - Goofy Edition: A Learn While We Play Adventure." The event will take place **Tuesday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m.**, at Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 W. Santa Ana St., Ojai, CA.

Visitors can expect what Zatkowsky calls "an evening of interactive ridiculousness." Using a portable photo studio and casting club members and visitors as models (adorned by a wide selection of mostly ridiculous props), he will walk attendees through the photographic decision-making process. This will include background selection, managing multiple lights, lens considerations, camera settings, composition, and most important of all, evoking action and expression.

Monthly free presentations are part of the Ojai Photography Club's community service and education outreach. Visitors are always welcome to attend.

The Ojai Photography Club, which is devoted to education, inspiration, and camaraderie, meets on the third Tuesday of each month, February – November. Only members may submit images for review. For additional information please visit: www.ojaiphotoclub.com/.

Contact: Myrna Cambianica
(805) 646-8405
photomyrna@sbcglobal.net

Dan Holmes Southwest Africa Namibia Photo Safari -

March 2-19 2018, which brings chances for dramatic skies, thunderstorms, and wildflowers. Trip deposits required now to secure your spot! Dan will cohost the trip along with Ken Sklute, **Canon Explorer of Light**.

You can also find a summary on Dan's website:
<http://danholmesphoto.com/Danholmesphoto.com/Namibia.html>

For a look at some photographs from the last trip, please check out this web page:
<https://danholmesphoto.smugmug.com/Stories-with-Light/The-Sands-of-Namibia>



VCCC Announcements

Gary's assignment for May is **"Environmental Portrait"**, as explained further below.

Since everyone does not have access to required subjects, an alternative assignment for May, is ... **"Self Portrait"**... *No cell phone Selfies, no boring Mugshots*, you must get the creative juices flowing as described below! Think dynamic! Go do it!

What is an environmental portrait?

It's a photo that tells a visual story of the subject's workplace, home, or anywhere they like to spend their time. It conveys a moment that captures who the subject is and what the subject does.

Is subject choice vital to the success of this assignment?

Absolutely. Your choice of content in the environmental portrait should create a visually engaging photograph. The subject's environment is just as important as the subject. Try to choose a subject who comes with a visually interesting environment.

What should I look for?

I'd like all members to really think about this assignment (visually) and select the right subject/environment.

I understand some have more setup time to find the right subject, while others may choose an existing photo taken on vacation or photo tour. My advice: Give yourself time to think about your photo shoot. Ask yourself, what is it you're interested in photographing? Do research wherever and whenever it feels right - it may be online or while you're driving around. Look for places in your neighborhood that you see repeatedly, but have never thought about for a photo assignment. Get the most out of these assignments by shooting ORIGINAL photography (not from old catalog). In the long run, you will be rewarded by your efforts.

It's detrimental for me to play creative director and tell you what to shoot because creativity comes from within. However, I understand we all hit creative roadblocks at one time or another. So, for those who need a visual push for inspiration, use these words to get your creative juices flowing:

MOODY STRIKING TOUGH OPEN QUIET ATHLETIC BUSY OUTDOOR WIDE BUSINESS
CONFIDENCE EYE CONTACT SIMPLE PROUD TALENT FUNNY EXTREME



VCCC Announcements (Cont'd)

Finally,

Most of you know my approach to assignments and my constructive critiques. For those who need a refresher here's the skinny...

1. **Research for inspiration.** *Know* what you're going to shoot and how you'll shoot it and it *will* show in the final product.
2. **Take chances.** Please show creativity! Don't just shoot the same old "knee jerk" response to assignments.
3. **Styling, Makeup, Grooming, Wardrobe.** Make sure the subject looks camera-ready and groomed. Pay attention to these details by communicating with your subject. Tell the person what to wear. Make sure clothes are pressed, hair looks good, and facial make-up removes any shine.
4. **Technical skills.** Must be spot on. Even if your assignment falls short on creativity, you must still show off your skills as a photographer. Lighting, composition, styling, processing, color correcting, retouching, cropping, printing and display of final work are vital to a successful shot.
5. **Have fun -- I look forward to seeing your final heroes!**

VISUAL INSPIRATION:

PS:

Always good to have model/minor releases with you. You can download pdf hard copies but I use this great app for your mobile phone.

Here's the link - price \$9.99 - <https://appsto.re/us/eJEGv.i>

Gary Moss



VCCC Announcements (Cont'd)

Club Meeting:

Wednesday, April 12th, at 6:30 pm, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003.

Please come to the next meeting of the **Ventura County Camera Club** on the second Wednesday of the month. Digital entries must be submitted by Monday, **10 April**, at 5 pm.

Our scheduled professional Judge for critique on 12 April 2017 is: Bill Hendricks

Bill is the Department Head of Photography at Ventura College : <https://www.hendricks-studios.com/>

Annual 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

Regular \$60, Student \$30, or send to:

Joyce Schoppe
4875 Mascagni St.
Ventura, CA 93003

Annual dues for new members will be prorated on a quarterly basis if joining after the first quarter. **Make your check out to: "Ventura County Camera Club, Inc."** We are an incorporated CA nonprofit.

Instructions for Digital Projection Entries:

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

Required: **LastnameFirstname_IMAGE TITLE_month-year_Assigned/Open.jpg**

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

Images must be emailed to: digitalentries@venturacountycameraclub.com no later than 5:00 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 not to exceed 1080 height, total (1920w x 1080h).**



VCCC Announcements (cont'd)

2017 Assigned Topics & Judges List:

January:	Portraits	Chuck Place
February:	Panorama	Tim Meyer
March:	Bad Weather	Gary Moss (see May)
April:	Abstracts	Bill Hendricks
May:	Gary's "March Assignment"	Gary Moss (Assignment only, <u>no</u> Open)
*** <i>"Environmental Portrait" <u>or</u> "Self Portrait"</i> ***		
June:	<i>None - Print Only Competition</i>	Donna Granata
July:	Speed	Chris Zsarney
August:	Reflections	"Hutch" Hutchinson
September:	<i>None - Print Only Competition</i>	TBD
October:	Street Photography	TBD
November:	Silhouettes	TBD
December:	<i>No Assignment - No Meeting - Year End Comp</i>	

2017 Refreshment Schedule:

January:	Sal Santangelo
February:	Ron & Sally Brubaker
March:	David Paumier
April:	James Hart
May:	Joyce & Bruce Schoppe
June:	Bob Rose
July:	Wally Olsen
August:	NEED A VOLUNTEER!
September:	Gregg Gillman
October:	Ken MacGregor
November:	Albert Huen



2017 Suggested Individual 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
Leo Carrillo State Beach Malibu
Nite Shooting Downtown Ventura Main Street
area and Waterfront
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
Montana de Oro State Park

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 on a repeating basis 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 Photographer and Photo Editor of 805 Living Magazine)

<http://www.garymossphotography.com>

Chris Zsarnay - Z Studios

<http://www.zstudios.com>

Greg Cooper - Ventura College (ex-Brooks Institute Instructor)

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>

Ann Hutton

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



2017 Club Officials

President:

Sal Santangelo

Vice President:

Ken MacGregor

Treasurer:

Bruce Schoppe

Secretary:

Ron Brubaker

Judge Coordinator:

Bernie Goldstein

Memberships:

Joyce Schoppe

Website:

Sal Santangelo

Newsletter:

Ken MacGregor

**Digital Image Entries and
Projection:**

JP Watson/Susannah Kramer/
Albert Huen/Ken MacGregor

Publicity:

John Ferritto

Photo Opportunities:

Ron Brubaker

