



What's happening at Photochrome in MAY

May 7—7:30pm Theme Night and Pic Six

Through the Window *Abstract Image*

These are the themes we'll be seeing on this first meeting in May. Decide what these themes mean to you and send in **no more than two images** for each of them. We will enjoy the unveiling together and then move on to the Pic Six pics of our April field trip—Grey Whale Cove.

May 14—7:30pm Board Meeting

All are welcome to attend. This is where we plan and discuss meetings, activities and general maintenance of Photochrome. The meeting is held in the Gallery Annex / Fireside Room upstairs on the main level of the Church and lasts about an hour and a half. Some terrific ideas come from the suggestions of members who just happen to drop in.

May 21—7:30pm Exploring Photography, Enrique Aguerre

This meeting could be retitled *Exploring your Camera* as our leader, Enrique, will lead us through the steps necessary to clean that sensor. Dust bunnies? Banish them.

May 30—9:00am, Field Trip Muir Woods Gary Larsen—731-2140

Car Pool & Directions:

If you have room in your car for other members, please let Gary know, since some don't have cars and may want to attend this field trip.

Leave SF by at least 8:00am to arrive at Muir Woods at 9:00 for good parking. Fee-Adults \$5 unless you have a national park pass.

Muir Woods is twelve miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge: Take Highway 101 to the Highway 1/ Stinson Beach Exit. Follow the signs to Muir Woods.

Photography:

Bring your tripod as the Redwood Forest tree canopy is thick blocking out much light. We will walk the main trail up one side of Redwood Creek and back down the other side. Walking distance will vary depending on where you cross the creek. Round trip is 0.5 to 2.0 miles. At bridge #2, the loop will take about 30 minutes. At bridge #3 the loop takes about one hour, and if you keep going to the end of the main trail then cross the creek, your time may take about 1 hour 30 minutes. Our early arrival will enable us to capture scenes with morning mist. Ancient plants such as ferns, horsetails and moss are good compositions. Redwood Creek with streamside vegetation, rocks and moss also creates pleasant forest scenes. Look especially at the ground where you may find small, beautiful things to photograph. You might also see small forest animals such as chipmunks ready to pose for you. Don't forget the mushrooms hiding away.

Facilities:

Restrooms and a coffee shop are located within the park at the visitor center.

MAY 2009

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 7
Theme Night & Pic Six
"Through the Window"
"Abstract Image"

May 14—Board Meeting

May 21
Exploring Photography
Cleaning your Sensor

May 30
Field Trip—Muir Woods

Save meeting time. Send your digital images by midnight Wednesday(s) to:

Photochromeprojectionist@gmail.com

Mark your images:

Category*-First Name-Last Name-Title. Jpg

*categories are:

PicSix (up to 6 images taken on Field Trips)

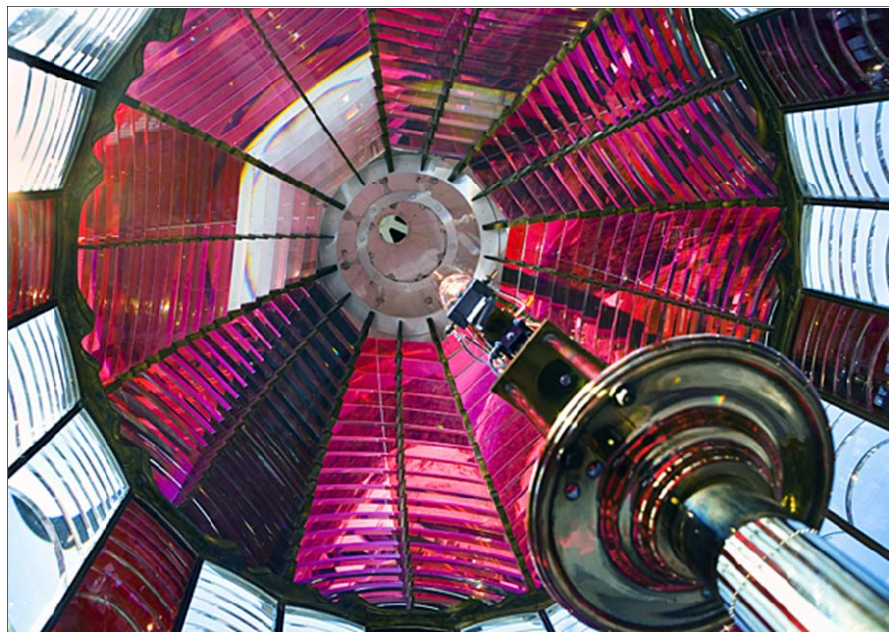
OP (Open Pictorial) two images

TN (Theme Night) two images per theme.

Please note: digital images should be resized so that the longest side is no more than 1024 pixels. That is how they fit properly on our projection equipment.

Inside a Lens

Story & photographs by Bob Nelson



We photographers spend much time behind lenses. Sometimes we're caught in front of lenses. Once I found myself *inside* a lens.

On a trip to the Oregon Coast in September 2007 my friend Wayne and I took a tour of the Umpqua River Lighthouse, south of Winchester Bay off US 101.

The present day lighthouse sits atop a 100 foot ridge, with the light, 165 feet above sea level, giving it a 19 mile reach seaward. It overlooks the Umpqua River-Pacific Ocean bar as it has since it was lit on 31 December 1894. The original lighthouse, the first in Oregon, was built in 1857 on sandy soil and due to erosion from storms it collapsed in 1864. The lens was removed be-

fore the collapse.

A story has it that the lens was crated and stored. But in 1891 when it was time to build the new lighthouse no one knew where. That was fortunate because they then ordered a new First Order Fresnel lens from the manufacturers, Barbier & Cie, in Paris.

Our tour guide led us up a steep spiral staircase to the top of the lighthouse into a room containing machinery. The Fresnel lens was above us. It has 616 prisms, 24 bulls-eyes, eight of them red colored glass. The lens is 10 feet tall, six feet in diameter and weighs two tons. It is a practical optical lens but also a dazzling work of art.

Since there were only two of us in

the tour our guide said we could take all the time we needed inside the lens. I went up the three steps into the lens. Inside I was surrounded by the clear and red panes of optical glass shining in the morning sunlight. I used a Canon 5D with a 24-70mm f/2.8 L lens. Perhaps using either an ultra wide angle or fisheye lens would be even more fun.

But at least now I can honestly say I have been behind, in front of and *inside* a lens.

If you're up that way, Lighthouse tours are daily from 1 May through 10 October from 10am to 4pm.



JUNE 2009

Preliminary Schedule

June 4—Judges Night & Pic Six

June 11—Board Meeting

June 18—Print Night

June 20—Field Trip

Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont

Welcome New Member

Jose Lopez
426A 45th Avenue F
San Francisco, CA 94121
520-343-5039
lopezjoseignacio@live.com

Selective Focus—Alice Steele

There was a fascinating article by Rik Fairlie: *What Sensor Size Means, and Why It Matters*, published on March 18 in the *New York Times*. Well, figuring nothing tried, nothing gained, I, perhaps naively, asked The NY Times politely if we could use it. "Yes!" they said. Happily willing to give us a discount off their regular price of \$1,200, just \$800 would put this article in our newsletter. Okay, I got the hint. However, if you Google this guy's name, you will eventually find a wide-ranging digital treasure trove of information.

Last month, I wanted to write about the April 1st St. Stupid's Day Parade but ran out of space. I understand that, during the parade, real socks are exchanged at the (er) Socks Exchange in the financial district. Our Bob Nelson found the parade without my help, and saw this little sweetie enroute.



Did everyone get the new Roster? Gary Larsen has been doing a fine job of keeping track of our members and recently put out a new roster. Gary mailed hard copies to those of us who do not have computers, but e-mail was the easy way of keeping others informed.

Bears, bears, bears. The last meeting of our April activity was held a week later than usual. That's because the program was by Rebecca Jackrel who was off shooting—well, bears! We learned much about these fascinating creatures and those lucky enough to know (or guess) the answers to some bear-related questions received sweet, honeyed prizes.

Lavender Alert

It always seems like such a short season for the Bay Area's Lavender blossoms. Or maybe it's just because so much happens this time of year that the time passes too swiftly. In any event, May and June are THE times to go in search of this fragrant and lovely flower. I know of just one place—and I've photographed there several times: Matanzas Creek Winery outside of Santa Rosa. Their website is matanzascreek.com and you need to follow their driving directions exactly to find the place. If anyone knows of more good lavender shooting spots, let me know and your sites will be in the June issue of the Color News. - Alice



What's Happening Photographically in the Bay Area

Apr 2—May 23 SF Camerawork.

657 Mission St, 2nd Floor, SF Tues-Sat sfcamerawork.org
Three exhibitions promise great inspiration and art: Sean McFarland's *Pictures of the Earth*; Julie Blackmon, *Domestic Vacations* and *Even in Arcadia*, guest curated by David Spalding are all up until May 23.

Apr 9-May 20 Rayko Photo Center

428—3rd Street, SF Tues-Sun. Raykophoto.com
The great Disruption. Work by three artists who depict different views and experiences of society in different photographic medium.

Apr 18-May 23: Reception, May 2. Bird Photography, Faultline Gallery, 938 B St, Hayward

Susan Honda Eady and Robert Jankowski present some interesting photography. We were alerted to this by Oliver Klink of Incredible Travel Photos. They did the bird photography presentation a while back. Thanks to Chris Kibre for forwarding this.

May 6: Wildlife Photography

Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium.

1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto
Palo Alto Camera Club is sponsoring this presentation of wildlife photography by Suzi Esterhas. Far more information on what promises to be a fine presentation, is at the Palo Alto Club website pacamera.com. Thanks to Rebecca Jackrel for the heads up on this one.

98th Running of the Bay to Breakers—May 17

Spectators line the entire course, but, on the website, they tell us that some of the best viewing can be found along Alamo Square at the top of Hayes Street Hill, in front of the Conservatory of Flowers at the Southwest Airlines Costume Contest and at the ING Cheer Zone at the Finish Line on the Great Highway.

So, take your cameras and capture special moments! Much more information at baytobreakers.com



March Print Night a Success

By Alan Heald

On March 19th, Photochrome held its first Print Night of 2009 to the great enjoyment of the 19 Photochromers and visitors who attended. It was an informative evening, and attendees said they learned a lot. Since that's what it's all about, we can count that evening as an unqualified success.

Print Chair, Alan Heald, said "I am gratified to see so many members show up eager to display their prints". Others came simply to find out more about the print making art. And learn they did.

The comparatively new format of Print Night encourages much discussion as well as friendly criticism. It is



very easy to become hooked by the process of making quality prints with rich colors and tones at

home in one's own digital dark-room. Alan says, "Once you begin this journey, never again will drug-store prints do it for you".

The challenge of printmaking comes from the fact that the image one sees on the computer screen usually looks quite a bit different from the image which emerges from one's printer. Print making involves learning the tricks and skills which allow one to make an accurate translation possible.

If the process of print making intrigues you, come to the *next* Print Night. It is scheduled for Thursday, June 18. Mark your calendars!

A Visit to Laughing Sal

Story and photos by Bob Nelson



She has red lips, rosy cheeks, golden tresses and a missing front tooth. She is Laughing Sal, hostess of the Musée Mécanique on Pier 45 at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.

On Saturday March 21, a group of Photochrome Club members: Field Trip Chair Gary Larsen, Arthur King and Pam and Bob Nelson visited her and other attractions here.

Inside the large building, just around the corner from the entrance, is the booth containing Laughing Sal. Put a quarter in the machine and Sal will give you a blast of her slightly maniacal laugh. Photo ops are everywhere including a fun house distortion mirror. You can stand in front of it and take off a few virtual pounds. There is a red masked arm wrestler you can compete with and never win. In a large enclosed case there is a complete circus. You pay your money; the entire circus goes into action. There are player pianos creating musical nostalgia.

I saw a man whizzing around the place on roller blades. Later I saw him inside the case of one of the machines, enmeshed in its mechanics. There he was, the long time owner, Mr. Zelinsky.

There are more photos ops just out the back door: Beautiful San Francisco Bay. Two World War II naval vessels: the Liberty ship, SS Jeremiah O'Brien and the USS Pampanito, a submarine, are berthed on Pier 45. The sub is open to the public for an admission charge.

Nearby, against the outside back wall is a small two person experimental submarine built by engineering students at Stanford University. If you have never been to the Musée Mécanique it is worth a visit.

And when you do say hello to Laughing Sal for me.



Composition

By Jim Silva

As important as are the many technical requirements needed for good photography-such as proper exposure and shutter speed-, it is proper composition that really helps to make a good image.

Composition is the proper arrangement within a photograph. It is in the pleasing placement of subjects together. A definition: :- *COMPOSE: To create an artistic work by combining parts and things.*

Listed below are some hints that could well serve a photographer. But remember, these are not rules-just suggestions. What works, works, and vice versa.

Fortunately two of today's more recent photography tools make for much easier composition. The zoom lens and the home computer with programs. The zoom lens lets a photographer decide what to include or exclude from his image without moving from a given location. The computer allows for in-

stant and judicious cropping, cloning, blurring etc. and makes many more options quickly available.

I list a few more compositional suggestions that come to mind:-

- 1) Simplify and avoid clutter It is not necessary to show everything. "Too Busy" is a valid and recurring critical complaint.
- 2) Proper Subject Placement The placement of the main subject matter at one of four off centre intersecting lines as in a tic-tac-toe arrangement makes for a more powerful showing. This Rule of Thirds avoids a central placement of the main subject unless it is really called for.
- 3) In landscapes especially-cut down on large areas of uninteresting sky and/or featureless foreground. An image can be improved by appearing more panoramic.
- 4) Avoid backs of heads and butts of ducks. It is always better to shoot an approaching subject rather than one that is moving away- People, buses, trains, animals.



Photo credit: http://www.flickr.com/photos/yushimoto_02/1397683988/

Asymmetric Architectural Composition

5) When photographing specific subjects-such as flowers or trees, Japanese aesthetics try to focus on odd numbered subjects. Say- 3 flower buds, 5 flying geese,

3 trees., and so on. Observe Japanese Bonsai work or flower arrangements.



Freestyle Ikebana by Yukiko's Design Studio

6) Avoid unwanted intrusion into the image frame. Offending random tree branches, half a horse's head, pushy mothers in law. These are easily eliminated with the cloning tool.

7) Camera club judges love Leading lines and usually with good reason. A winding road through a pleasant scene. A meandering river through a landscape. - All worth trying for.

8) When a human is placed in an image/landscape have him or her looking into the frame from one side. Preferably have someone on the right hand side look in towards the left side. This is said to work better because in our western world we read from left to right.

9) In portraiture one can make a good image with three people- a modified triangle is fine. With two or more people never have the heads at the same height. Especially with two people -have one head higher than the other.

Good Shooting!!!

Meetings are held the First and Third Thursdays of the month, except for November and December. They begin at 7:30pm and are held at the Fellowship Hall, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127. For meeting details check: www.photochrome.org

President: Enrique Aguirre
Vice President—Stacy Boorn
Secretary—Weronika Patena
Treasurer—Chris Kibre
Board Members:
Alan Heald—Connie Louie
Gary Larsen—Burr Preston
Alice Steele—Martin Taylor
Richard Zimmerman

Color News Editor
Alice Steele
SFAlice@aol.com

Webmaster
Photochrome.org
Jim Kelly

*All Color News material is
copyright by author. Reprint
by permission only.*

More Selective Focus

There is so much to photograph this spring, that I'm going to keep this column going a bit longer to tell you of more photo ops. I found the details for all these when I checked **events** at **SFGate.com**. There is much more information on these activities at that site, including links to sponsoring organizations. The first one? Well, how weird is this?

May 10—HowWeird Street Faire

Howard between 1st St and New Montgomery and surrounding areas. there are ten blocks of art and celebration plus 10 stages of music. Performances, colorful costumes and more.

We can celebrate San Francisco's Latin heritage in May with these two fabulous events:

May 2—Cinco De Mayo Festival Mission Dolores Park

10:00-6:00pm Mission Neighborhood Centers celebrates fifty years of community service. Family friendly -- alcohol free event. They say, "bring your picnic blanket and enjoy all day music, kid's activities, entertainment, food, arts/crafts and more".

Alternate venue: Kezar Stadium

11:00am, 755 Stanyan St.: Mariachis, Ballet Foklorico, and, at 2:00pm Soccer match. Cal Victory vs Necaxa., a professional Mexican team.

May 23-24—Carnaval!

Carnaval San Francisco 2009

Roots of revival: Seeds of Change
It's California's largest annual multi-cultural Celebration. Many venues. The Grand Parade is on the 24th. Stake a place on the parade route early.

6

Photochrome Club of San Francisco
P. O. Box 27265
San Francisco CA 94127-0265
WWW.photochrome.org

Photographic Society of America
75th Anniversary Conference



West Yellowstone, Montana
September 20 - 26, 2009

Member of:
The Photographic
Society of America (PSA)
since 1943

and



Northern California
Council of Camera Clubs
(N4C)